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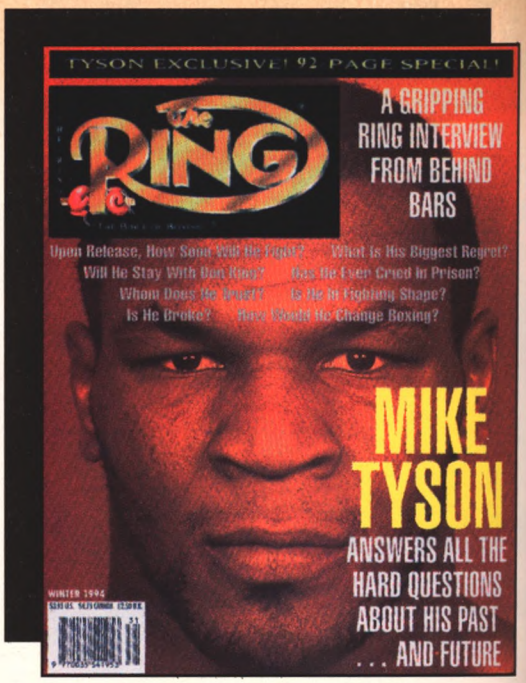

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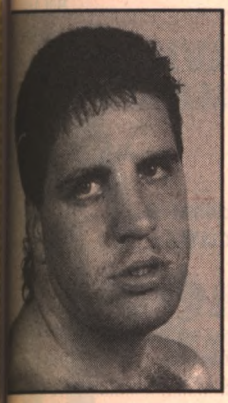

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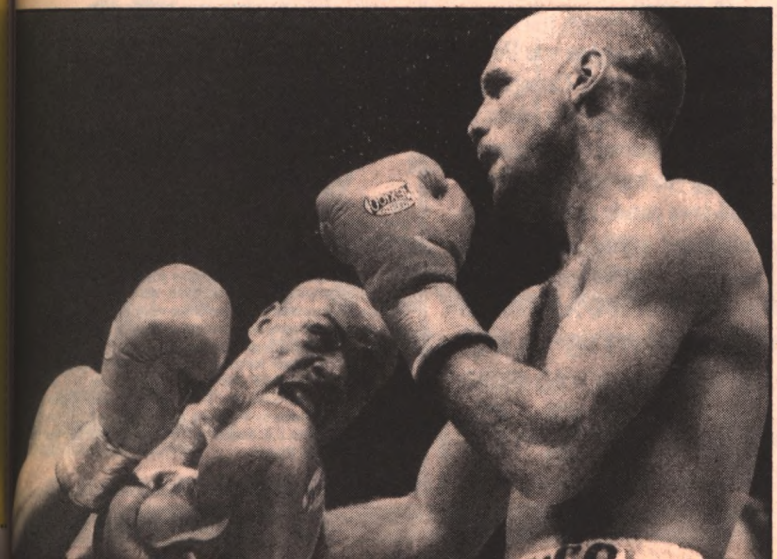

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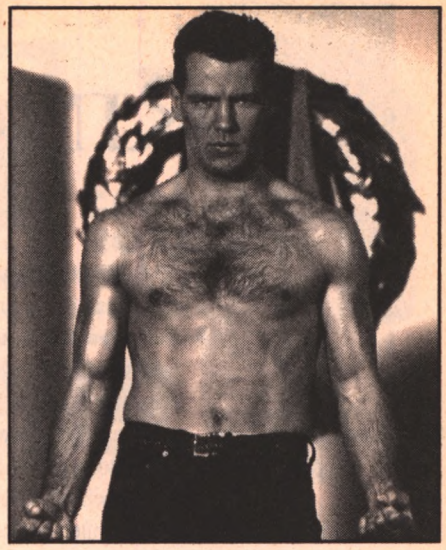

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RINGSIDE

Canastota, New York, is a town of 5,000 people, so a rumor can spread in the time it takes to down a Basilio-Buda sausage and a brew at the lounge of Graziano's Motor Lodge. During this year's induction weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame, the rumor du jour was that Mike Tyson was going to make an appearance. It made sense; "Iron Mike's" mentor, the late Cus D'Amato, was among the inductees, and Tyson has always had an appreciation of boxing history. Well, as it turned out, Tyson didn't show. And it was most definitely *his* loss.

After years of canceled plans and prior commitments, this was my first visit to the IBHF. I've worked closely with Executive Director Ed Brophy since the Hall opened its doors in 1989, and he's always guaranteed a good time on induction weekend. A good time? The sixth annual induction weekend was probably the *best* time I've had in my 17 years in boxing.

For starters, the hometown of former world champions Carmen Basilio and Billy Backus, *smells* of boxing. Upon arriving, I joined Managing Editor Nigel Collins and promoter Russell Peltz for a drink at Graziano's. In one corner of the tavern, Emile Griffith was entertaining a group of fans. In another, Leon Spinks was finishing a beer. Boxing maniacs were everywhere, some having traveled from as far as Texas, North Carolina, and even Australia. Before I could make it to the front of the bar, I was surrounded by a pocket of RING readers. These weren't the high-rollers that hog the ringside seats at big fights. Nor were they the bandwagon-jumpers who declare themselves boxing fans whenever one of their buddies orders a pay-per-view card. These were the hard-cores, and never before had I felt so comfortable while being grilled.

On Saturday, there was a memorabilia collectors show at the local high school, a golf outing, and the Banquet of Champions dinner. I've seen my share of impressive ring lineups, but nothing like this. On the dais, Bob Foster and Joe Frazier sat side by side, and both managed to refrain from throwing a left hook. Tony DeMarco looked right into the eyes of Basilio as he recounted their two title fights. Inductees Wilfredo Gomez and Bob Montgomery sat quietly, as did Fighting Harada, who had come all the way from Japan. Danny Romero, 21, was as vibrant as Sandy Saddler, 69, was lethargic, and when Carlos Ortiz said he finally found a place where he belonged, everyone on the dais knew exactly what he had meant.

Instead of clinching, Alexis Arguello and Aaron Pryor hugged. Ken Norton still looked like he was capable of kicking anyone's butt. Gene Fullmer was there, and so was Buddy McGirt and Joey Giardello and Jose Torres and Sean O'Grady and Michael Carbajal and Iran Barkley. When it was Foster's turn to speak, he opened by ripping up a photo of Virgil Hill. In a rambling speech, Arguello talked about gonorrhea, among other appropriate dinner topics. And Spinks missed his turn at the microphone—he was still at the bar.

On Sunday, the program featured an old-fashioned small-town parade (where else can you see a human Oreo cookie followed by Gil Clancy smiling and waving from the back of a convertible?) and the induction ceremonies. It was brutally hot and the speeches were mercifully brief. When Kevin Rooney and Torres accepted on behalf of D'Amato, I was reminded of the rumor and decided Tyson should've indeed been there. But you know what? In Boxing Heaven, no one seemed to miss him.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 74, No. 10 **October 1995**

The RING

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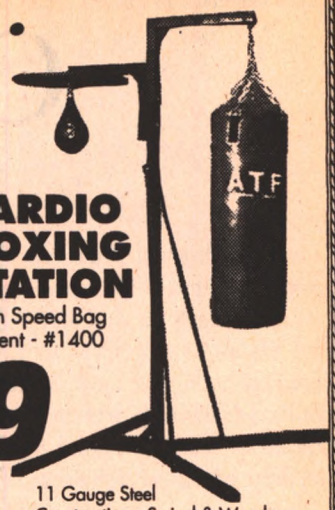

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

POUND-FOR-POUND ...

When I write to you about THE RING'S pound-for-pound ratings, it's usually to complain that a Mexican fighter is not ranked as high as he deserves. Ricardo Lopez, for instance, deserves to be ranked first. But this time is different. Now I'm writing to complain about a ranking a Mexican *doesn't* deserve. I'm talking about Chiquita Gonzalez. Since he defeated Michael Carbajal in the second match (and first stinker), you've had him in the top five. In the second Carbajal bout, he proved nothing more than the fact that he had a fabulous pair of running legs. Here in Mexico we consider him a decent fighter, but not a great one. Early in his career, we were amazed by his aggressive style and murderous punch. But his trainer, Nacho Beristain, has "helped" him change his style into a boring one.

Mexican newspapers, TV commentators, and fans in general were insulted when Chiquita compared his defensive skills to those of the great Miguel Canto. In the third Carbajal fight, Chiquita disappointed every single fan in the arena (including me). Instead of sending Carbajal to sleep early, as he had promised, he almost sent us to sleep with the ugly fight he made. The only great thing about Gonzalez was his punch, and he seems to keep losing it. If he fights Yuri Arbachakov or Lopez, he is going to be soundly defeated.

Do me a favor and give that fourth spot in the pound-for-pound rankings to someone who deserves it, like Frankie Randall, Felix Trinidad, Arbachakov, or Miguel Angel Gonzalez.

CESAR ALBARAN TORRES
Huixquilucan, Mexico

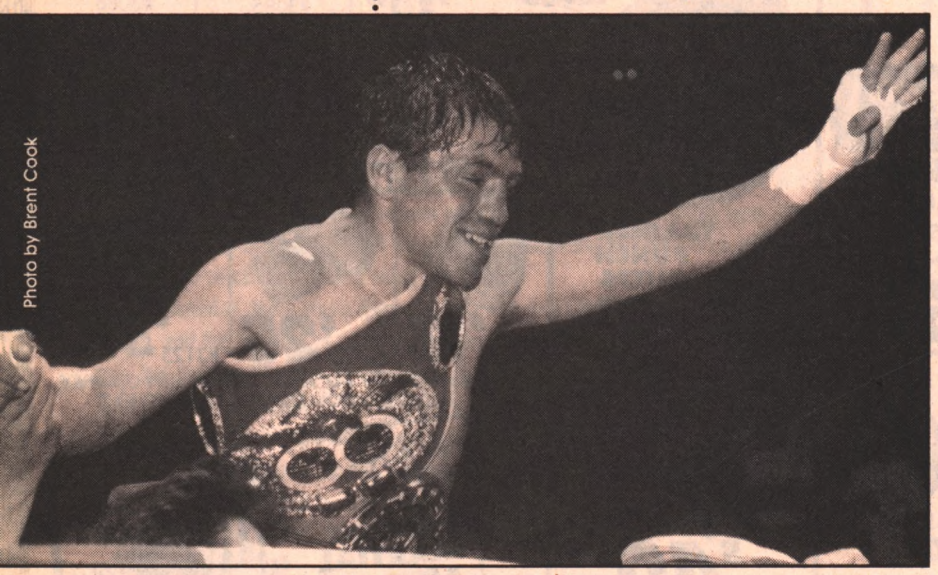


Photo by Brent Cook

Chiquita wears two belts, but is he overrated?

I would like to know why Julio Cesar Chavez isn't included in the pound-for-pound ratings. Chavez still fights top-10 contenders; even Giovanni Parisi was a legitimate contender. And THE RING still says he fights nobodies. Pernell Whitaker is listed first in the pound-for-pound ratings and he's fighting a guy named Gary Jacobs. If Whitaker gives Chavez a rematch, Chavez will knock him out.

Also, why is Kostya Tszyu rated ahead of Chavez at junior welterweight? Tszyu hasn't beaten anyone besides Hector Lopez and Jake Rodriguez.

Pound-for-pound, Chavez still belongs in the top five. He'll prove it to you by the end of the year.

ANDREW LAPACHET
Patterson, CA

MANDATORY HEADGEAR

I'm thankful George Foreman recently took a stand in favor of mandatory headgear in professional boxing. I know many of you courageous writers love the tough old days of boxing, but as a professional featherweight and one-time top-rated amateur, I have a few observations on the subject.

First off, if both contestants are wearing headgear, the better fighter will still win. In fact, headgear will prevent fights from being stopped on cuts, which should never happen; it's a cheap way of winning. Also, headgear will take none of the excitement, sheer guts, and demonstrations of will away from boxing. If anything, the fighters will be more willing to exchange punches toe-to-toe.

Foreman recently spoke out in favor of mandatory headgear

The point that overrides all others, of course, is ring safety. Fighters are entitled to life after boxing, especially after sacrificing so much.

MICHAEL RAFFERTY
Philadelphia, PA

I've been a boxing fan my entire life, and I'm tired of turning on the TV set the day after a major fight and hearing that McClellan or Garcia or Watson or Morales or Akeem lies in critical condition with brain injuries after engaging in a world title fight.

In the July 1995 issue of THE RING, Editor Steve Farhood wrote " ... let's make the sport as safe as we can." It's time to bring about a drastic change, even if it means altering "the hardest game." In one word, that change is headgear.

It's only the AMA that wants to abolish boxing. Putting headgear on fighters won't stop the AMA's campaign. What it will do is convince the fence-sitters that boxing is trying its best to make the sport safer. I cannot in good conscience say we're doing that now.

JIM TEFELSKI
Emporia, KS

NO MAS, MACHO MAN

After witnessing Hector "I'm Not Macho Anymore" Camacho's points win over Homer Gibbins, I believe it's time for the former world champion to retire. Although Camacho remains a better-than-average fighter, it's only because he's a defensive specialist. (Boring!)

Camacho is basically a one-punch fighter (right jab) who can no longer come up with anything more creative than an occasional one-two. He is a head-hunter, and he simply cannot stand to get hit. And when he does get hit, he can't slug it out in the trenches, as evidenced by his one-sided loss to Julio Cesar Chavez.

If Camacho can't walk through a Gibbins, how can he think he has a chance against the likes of Pernell Whitaker, Felix Trinidad, Frankie Randall, Oba Carr, and Kostya Tszyu? I think even Jake Rodriguez could beat him.

MICHAEL W. SABOL
Mt. Carbon, PA

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

How about a matchup featuring the comeback version of George Foreman vs. the comeback version of Larry Holmes? This bout, the punchline to the question *What's 90 years old and weighs 500 pounds?*, could actually have taken place, but never did—and probably never will. Another exciting matchup would be Foreman in his prime vs. Holmes in his prime. The possibilities boggle the mind. As Mills Lane says, "Let's get it on!"

ED KUBINA
Wallkill, NY

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE

Don't get too hyped about Mike Tyson. With "Iron Mike" now free, everyone, including you guys, thinks he's going to mop up the heavyweight division. The current crop of heavyweights is pitiful, but it should be remembered Tyson hasn't had access to boxing equipment for almost four years. He was looking kind of jaded before he went to the big house, and perhaps we'll soon decide that during his time off, he fell a few more notches. Tyson may indeed unify the title, but don't expect him to be the Tyson who was destroying fighters in his prime.

KEITH BRADY
Hawthorne, CA ■

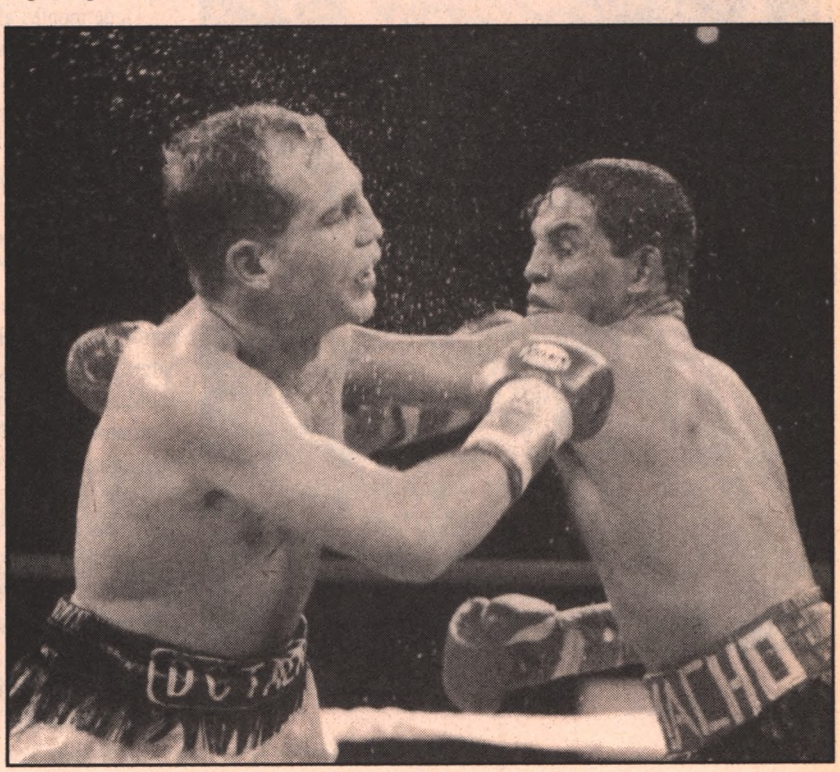


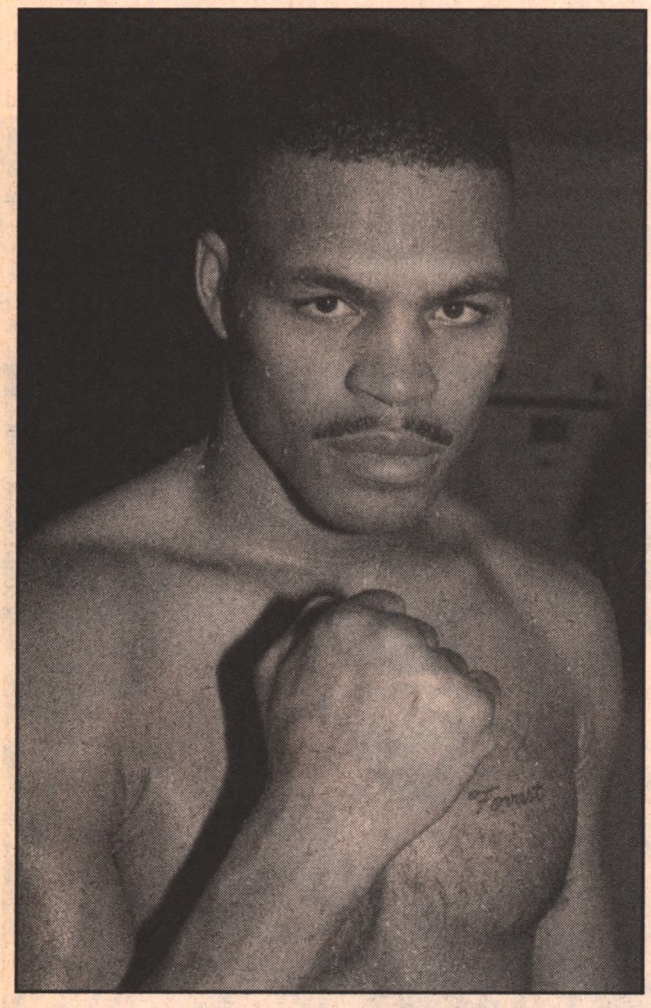
Photo by Bill Apter

Don't let the photo fool you: Camacho-Gibbins was a bore

ROUND ONE

GERALD McCLELLAN: AN UPDATE

By the time this makes print, Gerald McClellan may finally be back home in Freeport, Illinois, after the longest and hardest journey of his 27-year life. But he won't be running with his prized pit bulls or trying to make 11 seconds with his 1977 Chevy Nova at the Waukegan drag strip. And he won't be thinking about his next fight.



McClellan: Minimal improvement

"There is a possibility he might need some of the same kind of care he's getting now, maybe even for the rest of his life," said Emmite McClellan, the former middleweight champion's father, in an interview that provided the most detailed public accounting to date of the condition of the young knockout artist. In February, McClellan suffered a severe brain injury in his super middleweight title fight with Nigel Benn in London. He underwent emergency surgery for removal of a six-inch blood clot.

After more than a month in Royal London Hospital, McClellan was transported to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. In mid-April, he was transferred to a hospital in Milwaukee. His father, an auto mechanic, lives and works in Milwaukee.

Three months after the final fight of his 33-bout career, McClellan was unable to walk without help. He had a feeding tube attached to his stomach, and had 90 percent visual and hearing disability.

He was able to speak, brush his teeth, drink liquids, and eat pureed food by mouth.

According to Emmite McClellan, his son's physicians fear Gerald's sight and hearing will not improve.

"You can hold your hand in front of his eyes and he won't respond to it," he said.

McClellan's speech was clear, and he was able to say the names of his family members, ask for things, and "mention his dogs or something of that nature," the elder McClellan said.

McClellan weighed about 135 pounds.

Emmite McClellan, who started his son in boxing, said if Gerald returns to Freeport and needs full-time assistance, he will move there to be with his son.

Worrying about, protecting, and watching over the champion he made is "a 24-hour-a-day job," Emmite said.

Not surprisingly, McClellan's medical expenses have been astronomical. His care in Milwaukee cost $1,500 a week. McClellan's father said promoter Don King had paid several major medical bills. A trust fund to help defray the expenses connected with the boxer's rehabilitation has been set up at a Freeport bank. Contributions are welcomed.

The Gerald McClellan Medical Trust Fund has been established at First Bank North, P.O. Box 120, Freeport, IL 61032.

–Pete Ehrmann

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

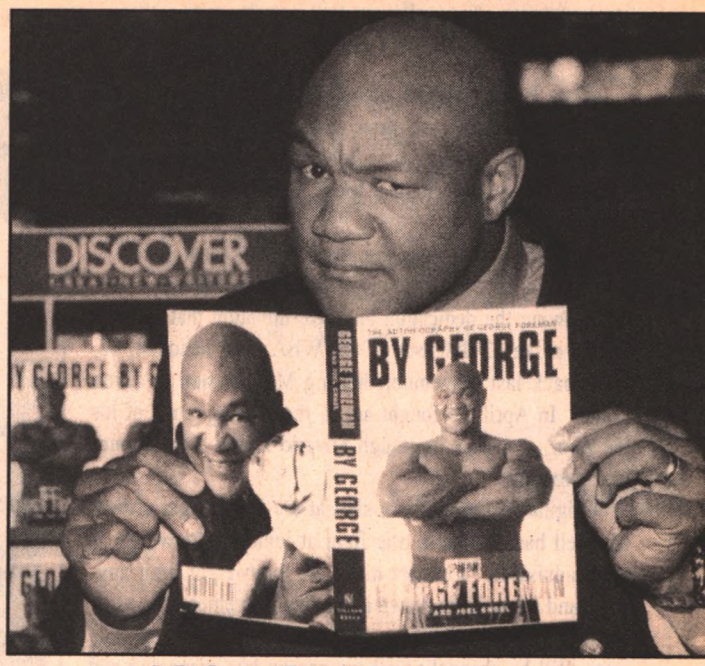
Sports biographies and autobiographies have rarely been confused with *literature*. In fact, many are laughable; if a quarterback tosses three touchdown passes in the Super Bowl, you can bet *The Joe LaBomb Story* will be top-shelf in the bookstores by early-March.

With that in mind, we were skeptical when we heard *By George: The Autobiography Of George Foreman* (with Joel Engel; Villard Books, $23) would be completed shortly after Foreman's miracle title fight victory over Michael Moorer. But we're pleased to report that while simply written, *By George* is an absorbing and revealing look at one of the few legitimate sports heroes of our time.

If you want to read about Big George's home run hooks and crushing crosses, or his thoughts on the likes of Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Muhammad Ali, and Don King, you'll be disappointed. Instead, Foreman vividly details the rage of his youth, the frustration of his failed marriages, his ongoing struggles as a father, and the religious experience that changed—and perhaps saved—his life.

In boxing, indeed, in all of sports, Foreman's story is like no other. In *By George*, he generously shares his remarkable journey with us. That's fitting, we suppose, because if there's ever been a fighter of the people, it's George Foreman.

–Steve Farhood



In By George, *Foreman let his guard down*

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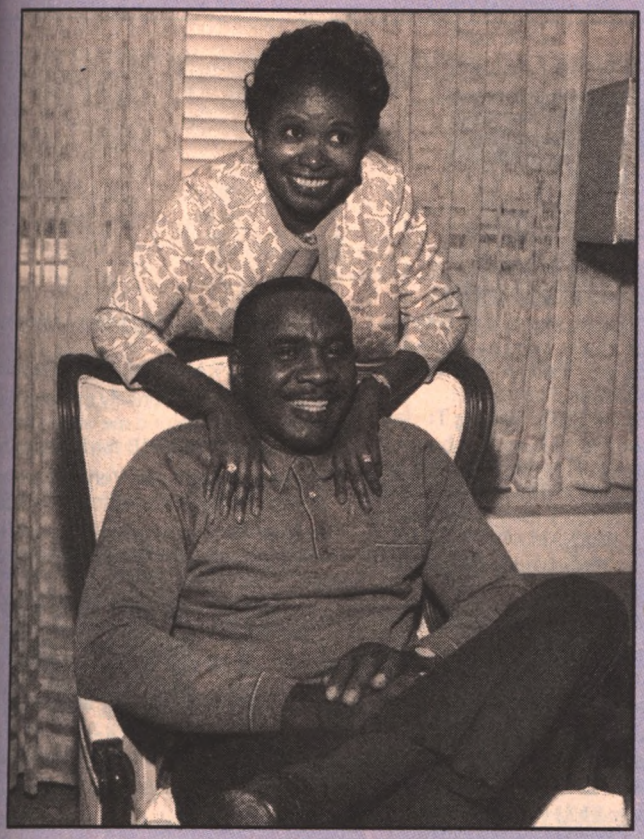


Told ya Sonny (with wife Geraldine in 1962) knew how to smile

HBO deserves a standing ovation for continuing to provide its viewers with not only world championship boxing, but documentaries like *Sonny Liston: The Mysterious Life And Death Of A Champion*. The one-hour special, which was produced by Kirby Bradley and Jeff Leiberman, detailed the life and times of the former heavyweight champion. It wasn't an easy project, largely because Liston, who died under mysterious circumstances in 1970, was uncommunicative and uncomfortable with the media. But a fascinating portrait was nonetheless drawn through interviews with boxing writers (including Nigel Collins, managing editor of THE RING), the former heavyweight champion's friends and associates, and Liston's widow Geraldine.

What distinguishes HBO Sports' documentaries is rare footage, and in this documentary we saw the fighter menacingly waving his finger at police in Denver, juxtaposed with Andy Warhol in a commercial for Braniff Airlines, and joyously playing with children in Lewiston, Maine, before the Ali rematch. There was also the obligatory look at the controversial ending of that rematch. It will forever be debated whether Liston took a dive or not.

Liston may have been the least-understood heavyweight champion of the modern era. If nothing else, HBO's documentary served to humanize him. "The Bear," it turns out, was a man after all.

–Steve Farhood

THE MITCHELL COMEBACK

When Brian Mitchell announced his return to the ring after an absence of nearly three years, he had a better reason than most: The former junior lightweight champion, who is arguably the greatest South African fighter in history, wanted to get his life back on track. After retiring as champion in 1991, Mitchell started partying hard. He ballooned up to 170 pounds, and there were rumors of domestic problems.

Showing the dedication and determination that allowed him to make 12 defenses of the WBA title, Mitchell, 33, came back last November, halting Mike Evgen in seven rounds. In April, he fought again, recapturing much of his old form in outpointing tough Silverio Flores over 10 punishing rounds.

Originally aiming for a shot at the lightweight crown, Mitchell has decided a title fight at junior welterweight is more advisable. "I cannot make the lightweight limit anymore and refuse to be drawn into a final retirement," he said.

Mitchell, 44-1-3 (21), recently opened his own upscale gym. "I'll be channeling all my energy into managing and training fighters," he said, "but another fight for a world title is still in the offing."

–Ron Jackson

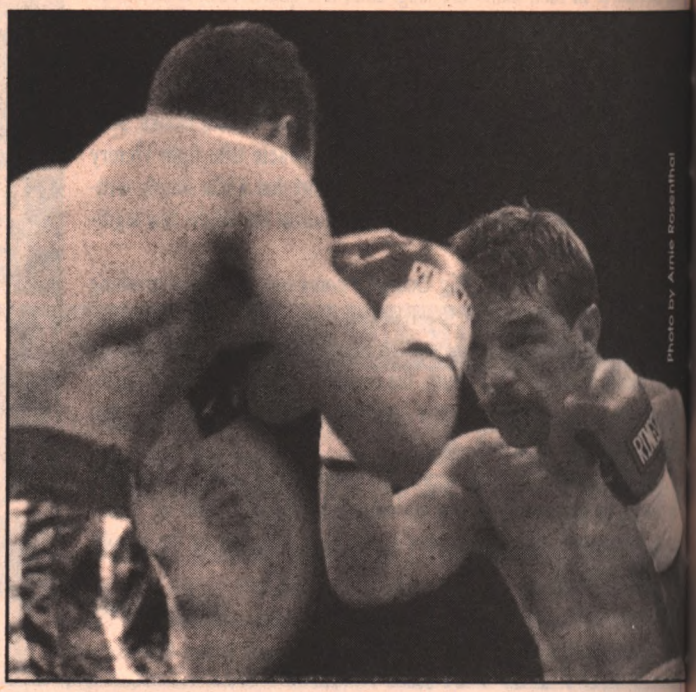
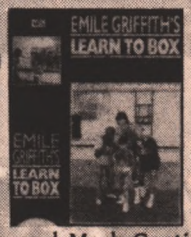


Photo by Arnie Rosenthal

Mitchell's return came after a three-year absence

EMILE GRIFFITH'S LEARN TO BOX THE VIDEO



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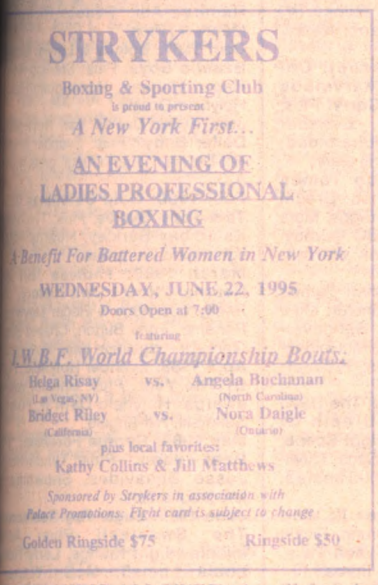
SOMETIMES A DIAMOND JUST WON'T DO: When James Toney was told to present the former Sarah S. Donkin with the ring, he thought the minister meant THE RING. Congrats to the newlyweds, who were married in Novi, Michigan, in May.



NO PUNCHING ALLOWED: An all-female boxing show to benefit battered women? Write your own caption because whatever we say, we're sure to get in trouble.

THE PUNCHLINE

"Little **Larry Merchant**, the little guy with the big microphone, *the midget in the attic*, continues making derogatory and slanderous remarks on television against the WBC. Everybody in the world knows his reasons. He is filling the Atlantic Ocean with tears because he doesn't have **Mike Tyson**."

-WBC President Jose Sulaiman on HBO analyst Larry Merchant. (The italicization and bold-facing of words are Sulaiman's, not ours.)

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

In Cincinnati, former junior welterweight champion **Aaron Pryor**, 39, was found guilty of driving under the influence of an intoxicant. A judge fined Pryor $350, placed him on one year's probation, and suspended his driver's license for six months ... **Chris Greyvenstein**, author, newspaperman, and consulting editor for the South Africa-based *Boxing Times*, died after a brief illness. He was 64 ... One-time teenage sensation **Billy Arnold** died at his home in Philadelphia. He was 68. Arnold, a welterweight who went unbeaten in his first 31 bouts, was still a high school student when he engaged in Madison Square Garden bouts against **Fritzie Zivic** and **Rocky Graziano**. He retired in 1948 with an overall mark of 42-7-1 (35) ... For the second time within a month, bantamweight contender **Sergio Reyes** was arrested in Fort Worth, Texas, on suspicion of assaulting his girlfriend ... **Howard McCall**, the chairman of the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission, died of cancer at age 72.

THE 10 REASONS PETER McNEELEY WILL KNOCK OUT MIKE TYSON

10. Reading Machiavelli between rounds, Tyson will lose focus.
9. "Iron Mike's" chin ain't what it used to be. Too many kisses.
8. McNeeley's been studying tapes of Indiana prosecutor Greg Garrison.
7. Check Tyson's record: He's never beaten a slow white heavyweight from Boston.
6. Check McNeeley's record ... On second thought, forget about McNeeley's record.
5. McNeeley has learned from his father's mistakes. (Notice he hasn't fought Floyd Patterson?)
4. If women weaken legs, Tyson's knee joints will be made of linguine.
3. It's in Tyson's contract with the MGM Grand: The Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion will be working his corner.
2. It's fate that in 1997, there'll be a heavyweight unification match between McNeeley and Frans Botha.
1. Don King has been practicing his signature move—stepping over a prone Tyson to embrace a victorious McNeeley.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

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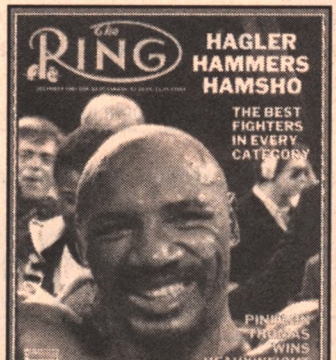

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March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

April 1995: Roy Jones—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Ex-champs Moorer, Holyfield, Lewis, & Bowe, Chavez-Lopez & Castro-Jackson, Olzubek-Gamache, What If ... Chandler-Pintor.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

☐ Apr/80	☐ Oct/84	☐ Sep/86	☐ Oct/88	☐ May/91	☐ Jan/94
	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
☐ Aug/81	**All 7 $28**	**All 10 $37**	**All 10 $37**	☐ Jul/91	☐ Mar/94
☐ Oct/81				☐ Aug/91	☐ Apr/94
	☐ Jan/85	☐ Apr/87	☐ Jan/89	☐ Oct/91	☐ May/94
☐ Feb/82	☐ Feb/85	☐ May/87	☐ Feb/89	☐ Dec/91	☐ Jun/94
☐ Aug/82	☐ Apr/85	☐ Jun/87	☐ Mar/89	**All 8 $31**	☐ Jul/94
	☐ May/85	☐ Jul/87	☐ May/89		☐ Aug/94
☐ Jan/83	☐ Jun/85	☐ Aug/87	**All 4 $18**	☐ Jan/92	☐ Sep/94
☐ Feb/83	☐ Aug/85	☐ Sep/87		☐ Jul/92	☐ Oct/94
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☐ May/83	☐ Oct/85	☐ Nov/87	☐ Feb/90	☐ Sep/92	☐ Dec/94
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☐ Aug/83	☐ Dec/85	**All 9 $34**	☐ Apr/90	**All 5 $22**	**All 13 $45**
☐ Sep/83	**All 10 $37**		☐ May/90		
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☐ Nov/83	☐ Jan/86	☐ Feb/88	☐ Jul/90	☐ Mar/93	☐ Jan/95
All 9 $34	☐ Feb/86	☐ Mar/88	☐ Aug/90	☐ Apr/93	☐ Feb/95
	☐ Mar/86	☐ Apr/88	☐ Sep/90	☐ Jun/93	☐ Mar/95
☐ Feb/84	☐ Apr/86	☐ May/88	☐ Dec/90	☐ Aug/93	☐ Apr/95
☐ Apr/84	☐ May/86	☐ Jun/88	**All 10 $37**	☐ Oct/93	☐ May/95
☐ Jun/84	☐ Jun/86	☐ Aug/88		☐ Dec/93	**All 5 $22**
☐ Jul/84	☐ Jul/86	☐ Sep/88	☐ Jan/91	**All 7 $28**	
☐ Aug/84	☐ Aug/86		☐ Mar/91		

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended June 15, 1995

Michael Moorer
Heavyweight

Virgil Hill
Light Heavyweight

Reggie Johnson
Middleweight

Dana Rosenblatt
Middleweight

Raul Marquez
Junior Middleweight

David Kamau
Junior Welterweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *26-5 (WBC Champ)*
2. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *36-1*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Atlanta, GA *32-2*
4. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Houston, TX *74-4 (IBF Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *36-1*
6. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *26-1*
7. **BRUCE SELDON** — Atlantic City, NJ *32-3 (WBA Champ)*
8. **TOMMY MORRISON** — Jay, OK *45-2-1*
9. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** — Las Vegas, NV *23-0*
10. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** — Westerville, OH *22-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *43-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *26-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *24-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *21-0*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *18-3*
7. **TORSTEN MAY** — Germany *10-0*
8. **PATRICE AOUSSI** — France *14-0*
9. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *24-4-1*
10. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA *24-4*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *48-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *15-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *46-2-2*
6. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *31-1*
7. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *27-0*
8. **MERQUI SOSA** — New York, NY *24-4-2*
9. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-3*
10. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *37-2-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *40-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *29-3*
4. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *42-1-2*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *40-5*
7. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *25-1*
8. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *37-6-1*
9. **BRYANT BRANNON** — Trenton, NJ *14-0*
10. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *44-3*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **JORGE CASTRO** — Argentina *97-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *27-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *25-3*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *33-1*
5. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands *51-3 (WBC Champ)*
6. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-4-1*
7. **JOE LIPSEY** — Lansing, MI *24-0*
8. **DANA ROSENBLATT** — Malden, MA *24-0*
9. **RODNEY TONEY** — Campo, CA *20-1-2*
10. **RICHIE WOODHALL** — England *19-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. VINCENT PETTWAY
Baltimore, MD 38-4-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina 54-2
3. BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY 66-4-1
4. VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY 25-5-1
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico 58-1
6. TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA 38-6
7. BRONCO McKART
Monroe, MI 26-1
8. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 19-1
9. RAUL MARQUEZ
Houston, TX 20-0
10. LAURENT BOUDOUANI
France 28-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA 35-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
Puerto Rico 26-0 (IBF Champ)
3. IKE QUARTEY
Ghana 29-0 (WBA Champ)
4. CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland 31-1
5. DERRELL COLEY
Capitol Heights, MD 27-0-2
6. WILFREDO RIVERA
Puerto Rico 20-0-1
7. OBA CARR
Detroit, MI 34-1
8. VINCE PHILLIPS
Las Vegas, NV 30-1
9. EAMONN LOUGHRAN
Ireland 24-1-1
10. ANDREW MURRAY
Guyana 18-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
Warren, OH 51-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 14-0 (IBF Champ)
3. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico 93-1-1 (WBC Champ)
4. JUAN COGGI
Argentina 69-3-2
5. DAVID KAMAU
Los Angeles, CA 26-0
6. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
Brentwood, NY 27-3-2
7. FRED PENDLETON
Miami, FL 38-20-4
8. JAN BERGMAN
South Africa 26-0
9. KHALID RAHILOU
France 23-2
10. SAMMY FUENTES
Hermosa Beach, CA 31-13-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Whittier, CA 18-0 (IBF Champ)
2. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico 37-0 (WBC Champ)
3. ORZUBEK NAZAROV
Japan 21-0 (WBA Champ)
4. RAFAEL RUELAS
Arleta, CA 43-2
5. STEVE JOHNSTON
Denver, CO 15-0
6. MIGUEL JULIO
Colombia 29-1-1
7. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico 37-4
8. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
9. SHANE MOSLEY
Pomona, CA 17-0
10. IVAN ROBINSON
Delran, NJ 18-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. GABE RUELAS
Arleta, CA 41-2 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA 32-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX 29-1-2
4. REGGIE TUUR
Whitestone, NY 37-3-1
5. ED HOPSON
St. Louis, MO 26-0 (IBF Champ)
6. ARTURO GATTI
Jersey City, NJ 20-1
7. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
Argentina 55-1-1
8. AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana 37-3-2
9. FREDDIE LIBERATORE
Bayside, NY 20-4-1
10. ROBERT GARCIA
Oxnard, CA 21-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
Mexico 37-2 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI 40-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. STEVE ROBINSON
Wales 20-9-1
4. ELOY ROJAS
Venezuela 31-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY 42-1
6. TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY 52-3-1
7. EVER BELENO
Colombia 30-1
8. MIGUEL ARROZAL
Portland, OR 24-5
9. MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico 50-6
10. CESAR SOTO
Mexico 38-6-2

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. VUYANI BUNGU
South Africa 27-2 (IBF Champ)
2. HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ
New York, NY 32-2-3 (WBC Champ)
3. ANTONIO CERMENO
Venezuela 22-1 (WBA Champ)
4. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
Mexico 36-0
5. NASEEM HAMED
England 18-0
6. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico 42-7-3
7. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX 39-2-1
8. DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico 50-7-3
9. WELCOME NCITA
South Africa 34-2
10. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
Japan 24-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM
Thailand 55-4-1 (WBA Champ)
3. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
Las Vegas, NV 16-0
4. SERGIO REYES
Fort Worth, TX 11-1
5. MBULELO BOTILE
South Africa 16-0 (IBF Champ)
6. NANA KONADU
Ghana 35-2
7. ELIECER JULIO
Colombia 29-1
8. AL KOTEY
England 20-1
9. JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan 10-2-1
10. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
Thailand 51-4

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. HAROLD GREY
Colombia 19-0 (IBF Champ)
2. HIROSHI KAWASHIMA
Japan 17-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. JOHNNY TAPIA
Albuquerque, NM 29-0-2
4. HYUNG CHUL LEE
South Korea 19-4 (WBA Champ)
5. JULIO BORBOA
Mexico 24-5
6. CECILIO ESPINO
Huntington Park, CA 30-3-1
7. DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela 20-2
8. RICARDO VARGAS
Mexico 20-4-3
9. SATOSHI IIDA
Japan 17-0
10. GERRY PENALOSA
Philippines 28-1-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Japan 20-0 (WBC Champ)
2. DANNY ROMERO
Albuquerque, NM 24-0 (IBF Champ)
3. SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT
Thailand 22-0 (WBA Champ)
4. MARK JOHNSON
Washington, D.C. 24-1
5. ALBERTO JIMENEZ
Mexico 28-3-2
6. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA 39-5-1
7. HIROKI IOKA
Japan 29-5
8. ROBBIE REGAN
Wales 15-1-3
9. CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM
Thailand 20-0
10. FRANCISCO TEJEDOR
Colombia 42-3

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Mexico 41-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ 34-2
3. HI YONG CHOI
South Korea 18-1 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico 43-4-4
5. CARLOS MURILLO
Panama 27-2
6. LEO GAMEZ
Venezuela 28-4-1
7. YUICHI HOSONO
Japan 21-3-1
8. ERIC GRIFFIN
Jasper, TN 14-2
9. JESUS CHONG
Mexico 27-6
10. HADAO CP GYM
Thailand 24-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Welterweight
2. ROY JONES
Super Middleweight
3. RICARDO LOPEZ
Strawweight
4. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Junior Flyweight
5. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Lightweight
6. FELIX TRINIDAD
Welterweight
7. FRANKIE RANDALL
Junior Welterweight
8. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Flyweight
9. KOSTYA TSZYU
Junior Welterweight
10. MIKE McCALLUM
Light Heavyweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

MOVING RIGHT ALONG

So let's root, root, root for the home team—but let's do it fast, before it takes off next week for a new stadium and a greater share of the parking revenue in Albuquerque or Jacksonville. What in the name of Walter O'Malley is going on here? Show me a pro sports franchise out there that isn't threatening to move out of town, and I'll show you one that just finished unpacking the cardboard boxes and unwrapping the housewarming gifts in its new abode.

Sometimes you can't tell the players without a scorecard, but these days you can *never* tell the franchises without a road atlas. The Quebec Nordiques are moving to Denver. New Jersey may lose the Devils to Nashville and steal the Yankees from New York. Baltimore is luring the Cincinnati Bengals. The Los Angeles Rams have shifted to St. Louis. And though L.A. wants to keep the Raiders, before you can say Allied Van Lines, they may be in Oakland, Anaheim, or someplace else.

It was only a matter of time before boxing got caught up in the madness and followed the shmooze-me-or-lose-me trend. Though you may not yet know it, some of the fight game's biggest franchises are now holding their cities hostage, vowing to go elsewhere if they don't get what they want. Some of the threats sound serious, particularly those of ...

The Kronk Gym: Fed up with the deteriorating condition of his fistic assembly plant, Kronk boss Emanuel Steward is threatening to bolt for the 'burbs if the city of Detroit doesn't renovate his current facility. Steward is demanding the installation of luxury sweatboxes, a larger cut of the soda-machine revenue, and construction of a five-story parking garage. (Three stories for Steward's cars and two for everybody else's.) An even more ambitious set of blueprints proposes the creation of Kronk Plaza, a pedestrian mall lined with such businesses as the Leeonzer Barber Shop and the Emanuel Labor Employment Agency.

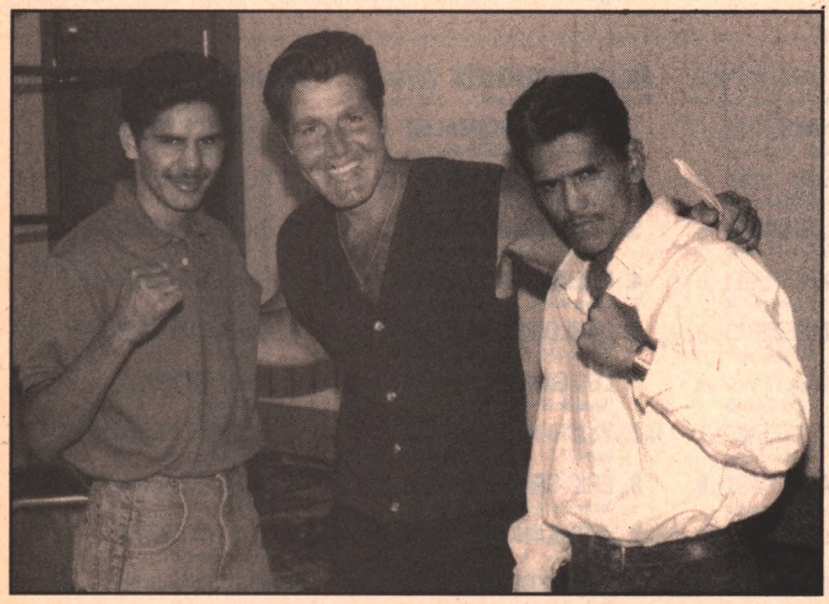
Thus far, Motown politicians have been balking, but they may be jolted into action by this week's revelation that the NBA Pistons have invited Kronk to join them in suburban Michigan. Steward has been told he can set up a ring at center court on days when there are no basketball games, and can also hang Thomas Hearns' trunks and Hilmer Kenty's robe from the rafters. Best of all, the Pistons are even willing to rename their arena The Malice Palace of Auburn Hills.

An offer too good to refuse?

The Ten Goose Gym: What's good for the gander is good for the Goossens. Tired of smog, traffic, earthquakes, riots, fires, mudslides, and fake breasts, the L.A. beach boys are looking for a golden egg 2,500 miles away—in beautiful blue Hawaii.

This move now appears to be a virtual certainty, especially since the Honolulu city fathers have agreed to build Ten Goose a $100-million gym with a retractable roof. Joe Goossen is already calling it the opportunity of a lifetime. Now he'll be able to train the Ruelas brothers and work on his tan at the same time.

Madison Square Garden Boxing: Banished from "The Big Apple," promoter Bobby Goodman and his staff have been offered a new arena and a new chance in Madison, Wisconsin. The proposed Madison Round Garden would have plenty of seats (47 in all), a luxury suite (actually, a phone booth with a folding chair in it),



The advantages of relocating: If Joe Goossen trains the Ruelas brothers in Hawaii, he'll never have to worry about his tan. For now, at least, the Ten Goose Gym will remain in L.A.

Johnny Tocco's Ringside Gym lacks the glitz of Caesars Palace and The Mirage. So unless city officials build Tocco his own exploding volcano ...

and a fully staffed food court. (All right, so it's really an old guy with a hot plate and some Lipton Cup-A-Soup.)

Aware that the building may not sell out if those masters of the mismatch serve up the same pugilistic poop they peddled at MSG, a group of Wisconsin businessmen has promised to buy all of the unsold seats at MRG for a period of five years. That will enable the MRG Boxing Department to lift the local TV blackout on fight night. How long, though, before viewers beg them to reimpose it?

Larry Holmes Enterprises: "The Assassin" leaving Easton, Pennsylvania? That would be like the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn, the Colts leaving Baltimore, the ... oh, never mind.

The truth is, Holmes is frustrated by construction delays in the building of his Planet Larrywood restaurant, zoning problems plaguing his personal theme park, Grate Adventure, and all the bureaucratic red tape that has prevented him from purchasing the last 40 square feet of the town that he doesn't already own.

County officials aren't yet panicking because they have seen Holmes in this mood before. Just last year, he intended to shift his operation to Toledo, only to discover that the movers didn't want to bear the responsibility of transporting his valuable boxing equipment.

"You can't carry my jockstrap?!" the incredulous Holmes screamed before scrapping his relocation plans at the 11th hour.

Don King Productions: In this case, moving isn't the franchise's idea. The U.S. government hopes to find a new home for DK's Florida empire, possibly in Leavenworth, Kansas. The bad news for King is that if he doesn't like his new surroundings, he's plain out of luck. This arrangement would come with a no-escape clause.

Joe Frazier's Gym: Smokin' Joe wants a new place or else he wants his freedom from Philadelphia. Thus far, talks with local officials have been acrimonious. The city has proposed building a state-of-the art gym on the site of an abandoned cheese steak stand in South Philly, but Frazier also wants assurances that a statue of his son Marvis will be erected outside the front door.

"Marvis should be standing in a fight pose, just like the statue of Rocky Balboa outside the Spectrum," Frazier has said.

Last month, the former heavyweight champ stormed out of a meeting when architects told him that a statue of Marvis lying down would be much more realistic.

Tocco's Gym: Owner Johnny Tocco isn't tired of Las Vegas' glitz and glitter. In fact, he wants a piece of it. The city without clocks better pay attention to the hourglass and the sundial if it wants to keep this boxing institution in town. Vegas has been given an ultimatum: It has two years to construct Tocco's Gym, Hotel, & Casino, complete with an exploding volcano, a moat, and the world's largest Tocco Bell. If the city doesn't deliver, Johnny T's new address will be in Branson, Missouri.

Top Rank, Inc.: "Yesterday I was lying, and today I'm telling the truth," promoter Bob Arum says when he's asked why, after vowing to keep his business in Las Vegas for the rest of his career, he is contemplating a move to Twin Falls, Idaho.

Insiders say Arum is intrigued by the idea of promoting Snake River Canyon jumps full-time. If he can't get Evel Knievel to suit up, as he did in his infamous promotion of 1974, then Arum will simply have his fighters assume the roles of daredevils. (Maybe some of them should have paid closer attention to the words "personal service contract.") First up would be Foreman, the obvious choice because of all the advertising tie-ins he'd bring with him. Arum envisions the preacher blasting off in a rocket that's shaped like a Carnival cruise ship, is fitted with a Meineke muffler, and is capable of skywriting the word Doritos as it streaks toward the heavens.

When asked why he wouldn't rather put Foreman in the ring than launch him over a canyon, Arum reportedly said, "Put him in the ring? After his last performance? That would be dangerous!" ■

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/95

Beginning in 1988, this popular magazine went to an all-new format, featuring a fresh look at the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers. "The Fight Fan Magazine" has, since that time, earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around.

Jan. 1988: Why Marvin Hagler Must Return, By Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Roberto Duran, Vinny Pazienza, Darrin Van Horn, Marlon Starling, Holyfield-Qawi preview.

March 1988: A Look Back At '87, And A Look Ahead To '88. Also: Bobby Czyz, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tyson-Holmes preview.

April 1988: Thomas Hearns: Why He Will Beat Leonard And Hagler ... And Why He Won't. Also: Mike McCallum, Ramirez-Whitaker preview, light heavyweights.

May 1988: Leonard, Hagler, Camacho, Spinks: Have You Seen These Men? Also: Mike Tyson, Donny Lalonde, Wimpy Halstead, Holyfield-Cooper preview.

June 1988: The Tyson-Spinks Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '88. Also: Greg Haugen, McGirt-Warren, Starling-Breland II preview, Camacho-Mancini preview.

July 1988: Tyson's Former Trainer Reveals: "Michael Spinks Will Knock Out Mike Tyson!" Also: Whitaker-Ramirez, Carlos Zarate, Hearns-Barkley preview.

Sept. 1988: A Revealing Look At Boxing's Best And Worst. Also: Dennis Andries, Calvin Grove, Tate-Nunn preview.

Oct. 1988: No Doubts Remain: Mike Tyson Defeats Spinks For The Undisputed Championship. Also: Thomas Hearns, Davey Moore, Haugen-Rosario preview, deserving and undeserving contenders.

Dec. 1988: Leonard vs. Lalonde: Can Sugar Ray Actually Lose? Also: Michael Spinks, Michael Nunn, Julian Jackson, fighters in peril.

Jan. 1989: The Mike Tyson Quiz. Also: Donald Curry, Tony Lopez, Barkley-Duran preview.

Feb. 1989: Tyson vs. Bruno: A Mismatch No Longer? Also: Vito Antuofermo, Orlin Norris, key moments in boxing history, Louie Lomeli, Michael Moorer.

March 1989: A Look Back At '88, And A Look Ahead To '89. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Darrin Van Horn, Haugen-Whitaker preview.

May 1989: Will Mike Tyson Survive 1989? Also: Frank Bruno, Harold Rhodes, Holyfield-Dokes preview, Willem Dafoe.

July 1989: Born Again ... Again: Duran Conquers Barkley. Also: Tyson-Bruno, Olympians, Tommy Gallagher, Chavez-Mayweather preview.

Sept. 1989: Sugar Ray Robinson: Photographic Tribute To The Master. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Mark Breland, Richard Steele, Tyson-Williams preview.

Nov. 1989: 10 Reasons Why Thomas Hearns Punished Ray Leonard. Also: Michael Moorer, Orlando Canizales, Al Braverman, Chavez-Taylor preview.

Jan. 1990: Who Should Tyson Fight: Evander Holyfield Or George Foreman? Also: Pernell Whitaker, Felt Forum, Ross Greenburg, Leonard-Duran preview.

March 1990: Can Julio Cesar Chavez Be Americanized? Also: Thomas Hearns, Tim Witherspoon, Prince Charles Williams, Foreman-Cooney preview.

July 1990: Buster Douglas: He Wasn't Playing Games. Also: Mike Tyson, Mike McCallum, greatest upsets, Hearns-Olajide preview.

Sept. 1990: The Light Heavyweights' Star-Studded Future. Also: Starling-Nunn, Tracy Spann, George Benton, John L. Sullivan, Tyson-Foreman preview.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: It's Coming! Also: Bobby Czyz, Jeff Lampkin, Sean O'Grady, Bob Fitzsimmons, Nunn-Curry preview.

Jan. 1991: No More Lightweight Concerns: Is Pernell Whitaker The Man To Beat Chavez? Also: Aaron Davis, Pazienza-Haugen III, Roberto Duran, Bill Parcells, Tommy Burns, Williams-Moorer preview.

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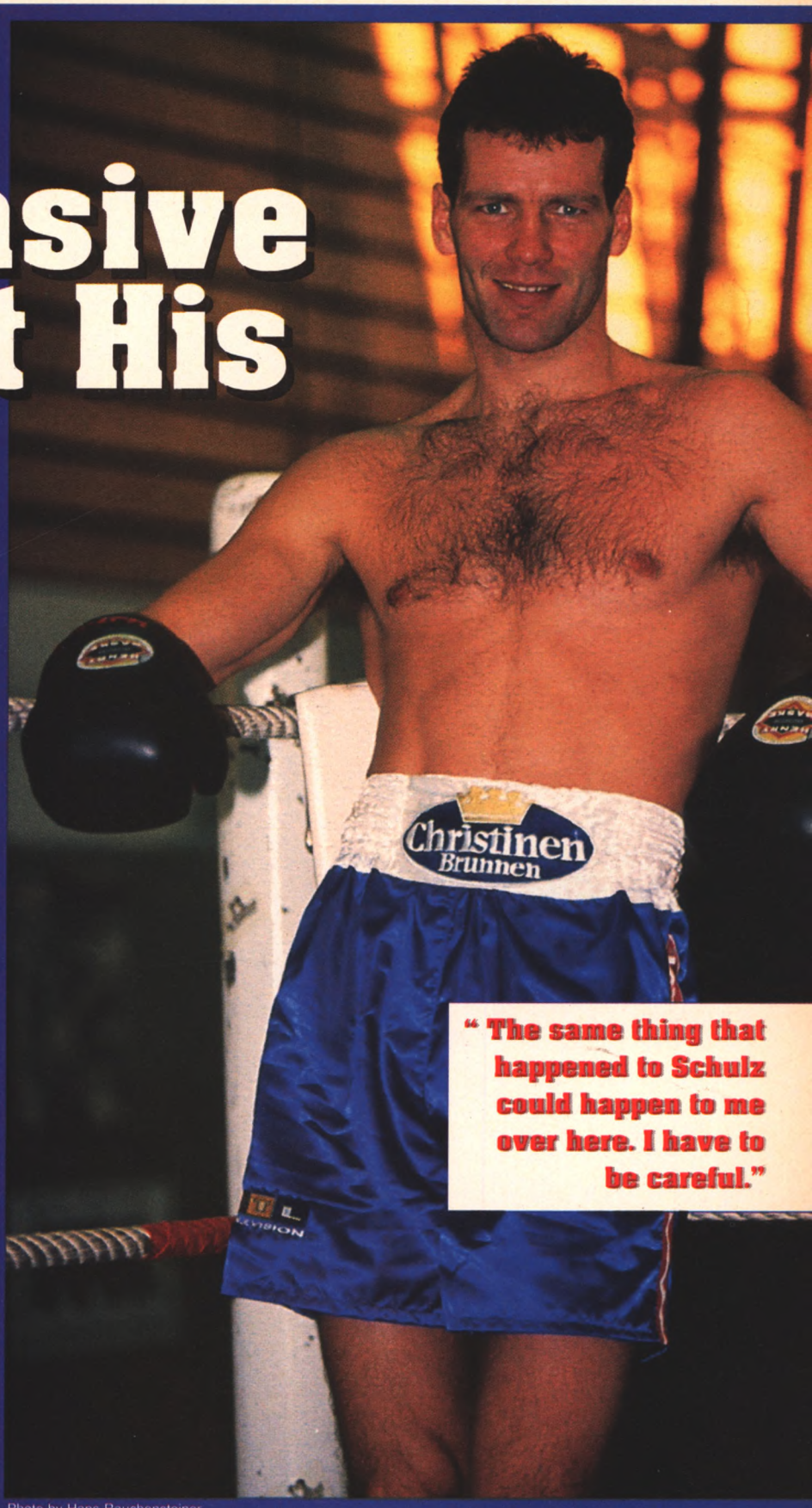
Not Defensive About His Style

By Jack Welsh

His peers throughout Europe refer to him as "The Boxing Executive." Perhaps it's fitting, then, that on this side of the pond, IBF light heavyweight champion Henry Maske is as anonymous as any businessman seated behind a desk. In his unchecked quest for victory, Maske, a southpaw, has turned conservatism into an art form. And despite his style, there's a certain curiosity about a handsome 26-year-old Olympic gold medalist and unbeaten champion who, in winning the title and making seven successful defenses, has comfortably defeated such world-class competition as Prince Charles Williams, Anthony Hembrick, Ernie Magdaleno, Egerton Marcus, and Graciano Rocchigiani.

In April, Maske was in Las Vegas to watch stablemate Axel Schulz' challenge of IBF heavyweight champion George Foreman at the MGM Grand. Is there a possibility he'll return not as a cheerleader, but as a player?

Promoter Bob Arum has been negotiating to lure Maske into a championship pairing opposite James Toney before the end of the year. Whether the fight lands in the USA or Germany, where Maske sells out even before his opponent is



"The same thing that happened to Schulz could happen to me over here. I have to be careful."

Photo by Hans Rauchensteiner

announced, his connections are insisting Arum come to the table "with at least seven figures." Maske is managed by Wilfried Sauerland and promoted by Cedric Kushner.

Speaking through publicist and translator Bertram Job, Maske said he had no objections to displaying his defensive style in the United States. "If something came along worthwhile, I'd take it," he said. "When you mention [WBA champion] Virgil Hill and [former WBC champion] Jeff Harding, they both refused to fight me. I always say bring them on, anytime, anywhere, but bring the right money, too. And I request two other stipulations: I want to be sure there's a large audience, and I want to be assured no foul games will be played."

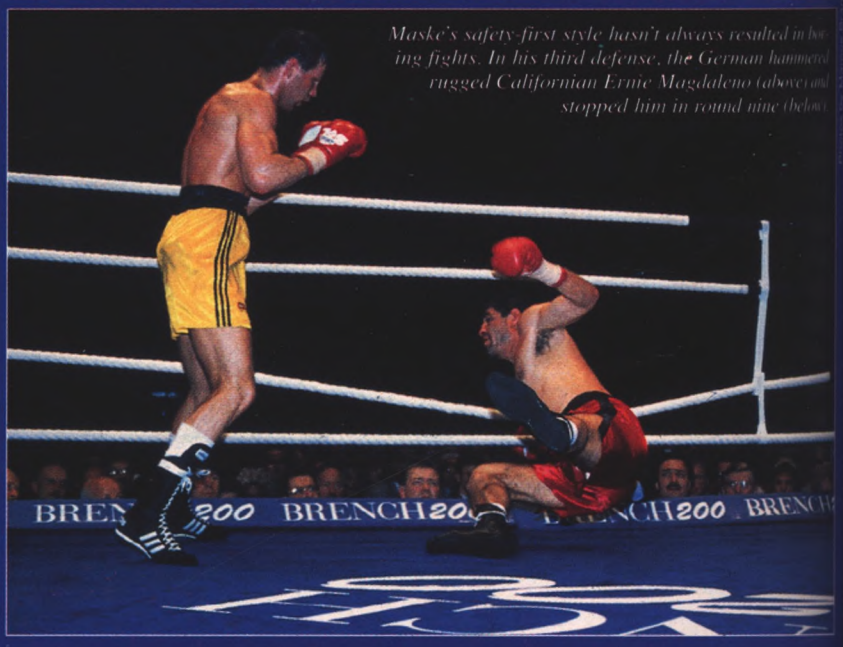
Maske's second condition is a reference to the controversial decision in the Foreman-Schulz fight.

"I have seen this happen before watching TV fights in the United States when I was home," he said. "True, George Foreman is a legend, but there is no doubt Axel won this fight. I'm aware my style doesn't accent the knockout the way Americans stress it in boxing, and the same thing that happened to Schulz could happen to me over here. I have to be careful."

Since winning the title from Williams in March 1993, Maske has been just that. Six of his eight title fights, all of which have come in Germany, have gone the distance, but there hasn't been a controversial decision among them. With the exception of his most recent defense against Rocchigiani, Maske hasn't just won, he's won convincingly.

"The average American fan wouldn't like Maske because of his style; he is cautious, but highly effective," said Job. "I know they would be calling him a bleeping stinker southpaw. What they'd forget is that he thinks in a fight from the moment the opening bell rings. No matter who he fights, he's not going in blindfolded. Henry plays chess in the ring.

"Maske controls the offense on the inside and the outside. Of course, that kind of ring personality is usually devoid of charisma. In the beginning, many Germans said Henry would never be a world champion, especially when he had to face those bad guys from the Bronx. Things began to change after Henry took Williams' title. Not only the fans, but the opposing fighters, too, have finally reached a conclusion that Henry Maske isn't easy to hit."



Maske's safety-first style hasn't always resulted in boring fights. In his third defense, the German hammered rugged Californian Ernie Magdaleno (above) and stopped him in round nine (below).

A lot of the credit for that must go to Maske's trainer, Manfred Wolke. There was irony in the fact that the 52-year-old Wolke masterminded the game plan that nearly resulted in Schulz upsetting Foreman; at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, Wolke, then a welterweight, joined Big George as a gold medal winner. Where Schulz relied on lead rights and steady movement vs. Foreman, Wolke has molded Maske into a cerebral, and at times awkward, counterpuncher. Upon finding his range, the champion hammers his opponents with a strong jab and an accurate left cross, and mixes on the inside, but only when it benefits him.

"A high percentage of boxers in Europe are well-educated, and at least 95 percent in Germany are thoroughly trained as amateurs," Wolke said of Maske's thinking-man's style. "Henry went to high school and later to a university in Leipzig to major in sports, mostly boxing. He was exposed to a scientific approach in handling fighters. The bottom line is that the student is told boxing is an art where the

Andrea Magi learned during his June 1994 points loss to Maske, the champ features a surprisingly strong right hand. It's when he follows with his left, however, that he's most effective.

Photo by Marcus Brandt Borgans

...im is not only to hit the opponent, but to ...ot be hit."

In Germany, and especially in what was ...ormerly East Germany, professional box...ng was all but dead until Maske surprised ...Williams. There was minimal boxing on ...ee TV in the '70s and '80s, and until an ...ndependent channel, RTL, began follow...ng Maske. The revival has benefited other ...ighters as well. Poland-born Dariusz ...Michalczewski has thrived in Germany and ...ow ranks among the top light heavy...eights in the world. Schulz, who hopes to ...e rematched with Foreman in Germany, ...as become an instant star. And in May, ...former IBF super middleweight champion ...Rocchigiani combined with Maske in the ...first all-German world title fight in history.

It all began with Maske-Williams, and ...Prince Charles remains the best fighter ...the German has faced. Despite Maske's ...amateur credentials, Williams seemingly ...took him lightly, accepting the bout after a ...17-month layoff.

"I checked around and got as many ...videotapes of Williams' big fights as I ...could, all the way back to when he beat ...Bobby Czyz for the title," said Maske. "This ...guy was in my head, and I knew all his ...moves. When he heard I was checking him ...out from fight tapes, he told his friends, ...'You don't become world champion watch...ing video. I'll go over there and come home ...with a knockout.' Like others I've fought, ...Williams didn't know much about Henry ...Maske."

When they review his pro ledger, Maske's opponents, almost to a man, have been lulled into a false sense of confidence. Job recalled Maske's defense against three-division former titlist Iran Barkley in October 1994.

"I was assigned to help Barkley any way I could, especially with the German media," he said. "The first thing he asked was how many knockouts Maske had. I told him 10, exactly half the number Barkley had. When Iran got the impression Henry wasn't a big hitter, he was beaming. He declared, 'You guys can bet on it: I'm gonna knock this German out and take the title back to the States.'

"The fight wasn't very old when the spectators knew they were watching a mismatch. Maske had no problem picking the wild-swinging Barkley apart with combinations. Barkley couldn't come out for the 10th round, and afterward, he told me, 'Maske was as clever as any guy I ever fought, and that includes Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran.'"

One opponent who knew Maske too well to underestimate him was previously undefeated Canadian Egerton Marcus, who had lost to the German in the gold medal match at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. In their amateur bout, Marcus, a squarely built powerpuncher, fought with a broken hand. There were no such excuses after their bout in February. Marcus won the first three rounds--Maske almost always starts slowly-before the champion gained total control, refusing to allow his foe to get inside. Maske scored a knockdown in the seventh, after which Marcus seemed to lose interest, and the champion cruised to a unanimous decision victory.

Photo by Hans Rauchensteiner

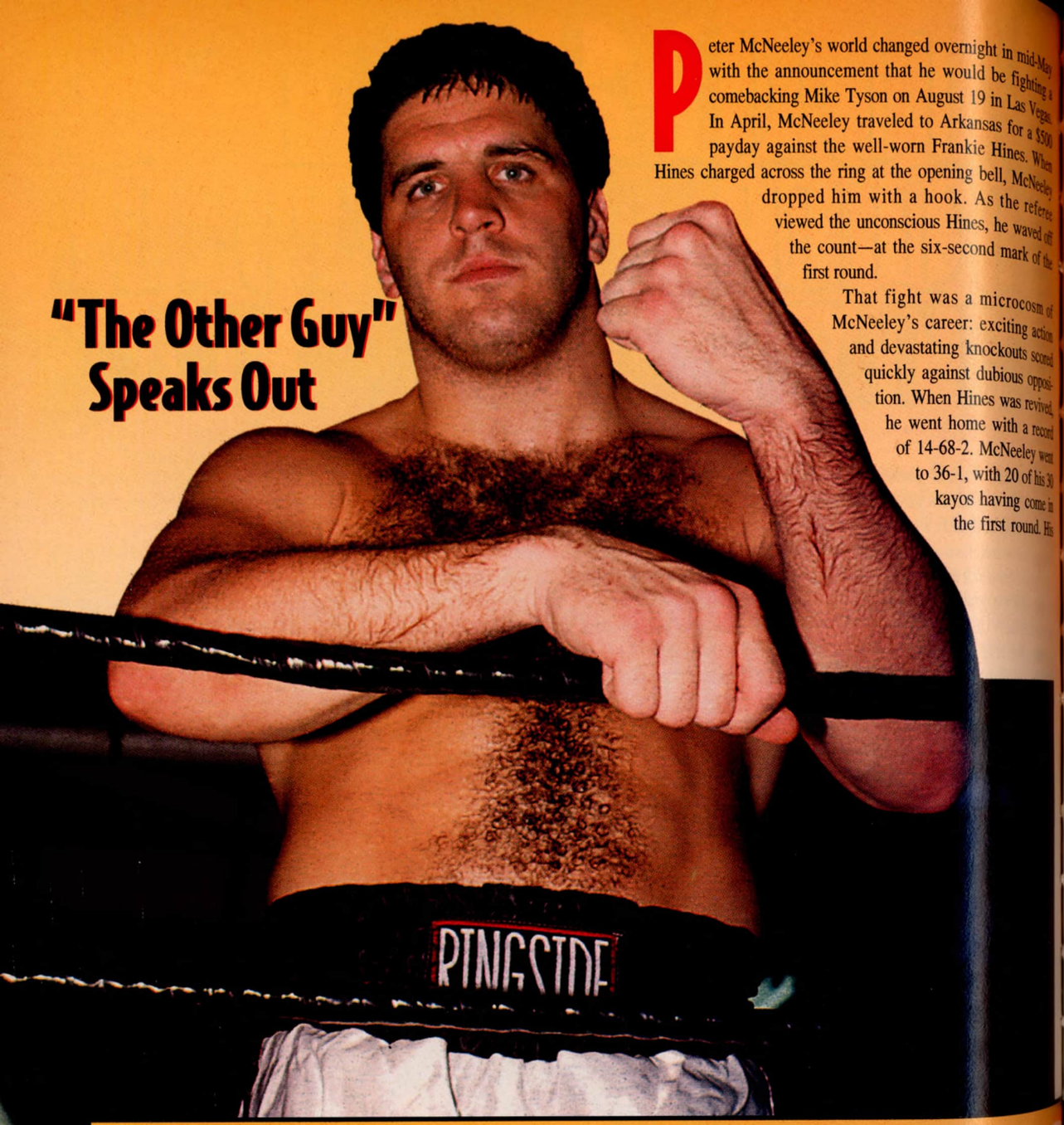
Maske, with wife Manuela, is a huge star in Germany. In fact, his fights sell out even before promoters announce his opponent. The champion is willing to fight in the USA, but not for less than $1-million. There are offers on the table.

Maske was never concerned with knocking out Marcus. Of course, if he ever fights in the USA, fans will be more concerned with the red-white-and-blue hero, whether it be Toney, Hill, or Maske's dream opponent, Roy Jones, knocking *him* out.

"The knockout is not that important, but winning is," said Maske. "One German writer once said, 'If you want to beat Henry Maske, you have to have a complete menu of combinations that will surprise him.' Maybe I'm a little lucky, but nobody has surprised me so far." ■

Jack Welsh is The Ring's long-time correspondent in Las Vegas.

"The Other Guy" Speaks Out



MISMATCH? DON'T TELL PETER McNEELEY!

Peter McNeeley's world changed overnight in mid-May with the announcement that he would be fighting a comebacking Mike Tyson on August 19 in Las Vegas. In April, McNeeley traveled to Arkansas for a $500 payday against the well-worn Frankie Hines. When Hines charged across the ring at the opening bell, McNeeley dropped him with a hook. As the referee viewed the unconscious Hines, he waved off the count—at the six-second mark of the first round.

That fight was a microcosm of McNeeley's career: exciting action and devastating knockouts scored quickly against dubious opposition. When Hines was revived, he went home with a record of 14-68-2. McNeeley went to 36-1, with 20 of his 30 kayos having come in the first round. His fight with Tyson will be a payoff for four years of toiling in small, grimy arenas for checks that seldom reached four figures. For battling Tyson, McNeeley will receive $880,000.

McNeeley has emerged on the national sporting scene, but hardly in a positive light. Within a week of the press conference announcing the Tyson fight, the New York *Daily News'* Michael Katz wrote a story examining McNeeley's record. The headline read "McNeeley's McStiffs."

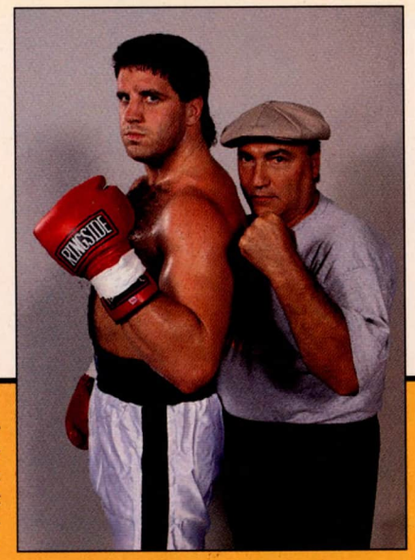
Still smarting over a story in *Boston Magazine* last winter that dubbed him "The Great White Hopeless," McNeeley and his management have become press-wary. It also hasn't helped that national boxing observers have criticized the heavyweight's skills without having seen him fight. Clearly, McNeeley-bashing is in.

"Peter McNeeley at his best is a local heavyweight product that's been so protected in fights back here, I've been underrated somewhat in my abilities and my progress."

The tale of how McNeeley's grandfather fought on the first Boston Garden boxing show in 1928 has been oft-repeated this year. McNeeley's father, Tom, unsuccessfully challenged heavyweight titlist Floyd Patterson in 1961, and that's become a familiar story, too. All that family history took a hit when a story in THE RING (June 1995) on the 10 least deserving heavyweight challengers of all-time included Tom McNeeley. So when it came time to do this interview, the McNeeley camp wasn't thrilled with the idea and rejected the magazine's staffers.

The interview was assigned to Jay N. Miller, New England's correspondent for THE RING. Covering the boxing beat for the Quincy *Patriot Ledger*, Miller has been ringside for 30 of McNeeley's 37 bouts. There have been many instances where the writer-fighter relationship has been rocky. For instance, there was a period of coolness after McNeeley's St. Patrick's Day second-round kayo of a passive Danny Wofford, mostly because Miller referred to the loser as "another short, fat tomato can."

On the day this interview was conducted, McNeeley was fuming about a gossip page item in the *Boston Herald* that had him "training on sausages" at an outdoor nightclub in Quincy harbor. "This is bleep!" he grumbled. "I had pizza anyway."



McNeeley with manager Vinnie Vecchione, whose master plan is paying off in an $800,000 payday and a crack at the most famous heavyweight in the world.

Photos by Bill Apter

THE RING: *Bruce Seldon and Oliver McCall are both world champions. They both seem like they'd be easier fights than Tyson. Why Tyson? Or was that simply the best offer?*

Peter McNeeley: Yes, exactly. The McCall fight last fall never really materialized, and I believe that was for a few reasons. I think they want to keep McCall champion. I wouldn't be a bad fight for McCall because I'd get right on him, but they wanted to fight Larry Holmes instead because they knew Larry wasn't going to hurt him, and McCall would get a good 12 rounds in. Whereas they might be taking a chance with me crashing into him.

THE RING: ***You had a chance to see Seldon when your then-stablemate, Russian Alexander Popov, fought him in Atlantic City in January 1993. What do you think of him?***

PM: I didn't go with them, I watched it at home on ESPN. I think that result [Seldon KO 2] was the result of the Russian's lack of conditioning. I saw Seldon fight Tony Tucker, and I saw a much-improved fighter. But if Tucker had the conditioning—he's at the tail end of his career and he was in terrible condition—he could've followed up at certain times and taken Seldon out.

Seldon's been beaten by McCall, so no one really knows who he is. Of those two, it would be better to fight McCall, but it might be easier to beat Seldon. You're talking short money either way. Against Tyson, not only do you get a bigger payday, but you also get more notoriety. Nobody's really going to tune in to see Peter McNeeley vs. Bruce Seldon or Oliver McCall—*I'd* almost be the drawing card making the fight there. But Tyson is an icon, and fighting him puts your name on the map. So I'm very leery of

BRONCO McKART'S NOT NOTHER JAMES TONEY

And That's Not A Bad Thing

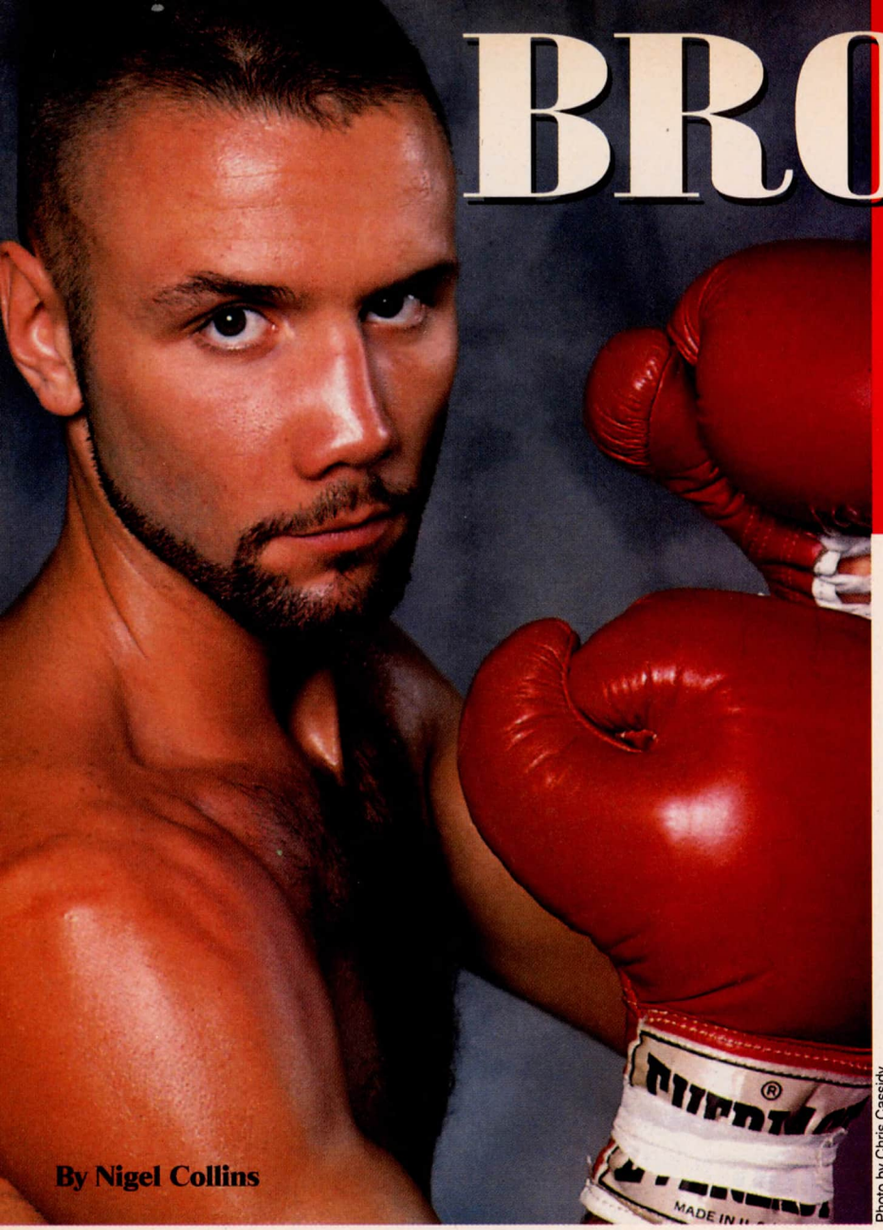


Photo by Chris Cassidy

By Nigel Collins

What kind of name is *Bronco McKart* for a Bible school teacher? Or for a pug from Monroe, Michigan, for that matter? Bronco McKart sounds more like something a Hollywood script writer made up for a character in a rodeo movie. But anybody who saw McKart's recent war with former WBA welterweight champion Aaron Davis knows the 24-year-old southpaw is no cowboy. Nor is he a creation of Tinseltown. As unlikely as it might seem, he's the latest star to emerge from Jackie Kallen's high-profile Galaxy Gym.

The Galaxy Gym is the home of former IBF middleweight and super middleweight champion James "Lights Out" Toney, the guy who kept on eating until he resembled Marlon Brando in *Apocalypse Now*. Bad-ass guy, that Toney, and you have to be tough to hang in his gym. But McKart has not only survived on Toney's turf, he's prospered.

Toney and McKart are good friends, so there's no rivalry. But from an outsider's point of view, a subtle shift in the hierarchy at Galaxy, a stable that also includes IBF featherweight champion Tom Johnson, is apparent. Putting aside the combustible Toney-Kallen relationship, McKart is a lot more interesting than Toney right now. McKart's fights are fun to watch. When was the last time you could say the same about Toney?

"I get more fan mail for Bronco than almost all of my other fighters combined," said Kallen.

You couldn't find two men more dissimilar than Toney and McKart. One is a reformed street thug known for violent outbursts and anti-social behavior. The other grew up fishing for walleye in Lake Erie and teaching vacation Bible school at the Monroe Missionary Baptist Church. But both have a passion for boxing that drew them to Galaxy and the gym's head trainer and resident guru, Bill Miller.

"Those two are like night and day," said Miller, who was fired as Toney's trainer after criticizing his former pupil's training and culinary habits. "Bronco is a pleasure to work with. He loves to train. He's willing to make the sacrifice."

It's been the combination of Toney's bad-to-the-bone intensity and Miller's sage-like savvy that has molded McKart into a crowd-pleasing contender. When you're around men like Miller and Toney, there's no half-stepping. It also helps that McKart's father, Eugene, and several uncles fought as amateurs. Boxing is in his blood.

McKart is doing things differently. Usually, when a white boxer comes along who knows enough to move his head *before* he gets hit, he's protected to such a ridiculous degree, his opponents often fall down before they get hit. But not McKart. He refuses to pad his record by bowling over a series of McStiffs.

"I didn't have a real outstanding amateur background," he explained. "And when they offered me these tough guys to fight, I said 'yeah.' I never turned down anybody. I figured I had to beat these guys to prove myself."

Despite having proven himself against such quality opponents as Skipper Kelp (KO 6), Brandon Croly (KO 8), Alain Bonnamie (KO 7), and Engels Pedroza (KO 7), McKart still wasn't satisfied. He felt a need to confirm his status against an adversary capable of pushing him to the limit.

"Actually, they gave me the option of whether I wanted to take the Davis fight or not," said McKart. "The offer was on the table, but they said I didn't have to take the fight if I didn't want to. But I said I wanted it because, number one, Aaron Davis was a former world champion, and I'm on the verge of getting ready to fight for a world title. I wanted a guy who'd been there, a guy who was definitely a quality opponent, somebody who would beat me if I wasn't at the top of my game. I wanted to prove to myself, the boxing world, and the general public that I am ready for a world title."

At first, it didn't look like McKart would get the kind of test he wanted. Davis, 28, seemed jaded and faded, a former champion going through the motions. True, the fight was fought almost entirely head-to-head from the start, but McKart was much sharper, zinging his punches home with far more zip and frequency.

On numerous occasions, Davis obligingly leaned into McKart's blistering left uppercuts. The best he could muster in return was a perfunctory body attack. At least he was consistent, dutifully hooking under McKart's elbows whenever he had the chance. Davis was rocked in the third, but fought back. And even though he didn't win any of the first five rounds, the New Yorker's body attack began to pay off in the sixth.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth rounds were the most demanding of McKart's career. Davis hurt him with a bodyshot in the seventh, pounded him again in the eighth, and almost turned the fight around in the ninth when a large cut burst open over McKart's right eye.

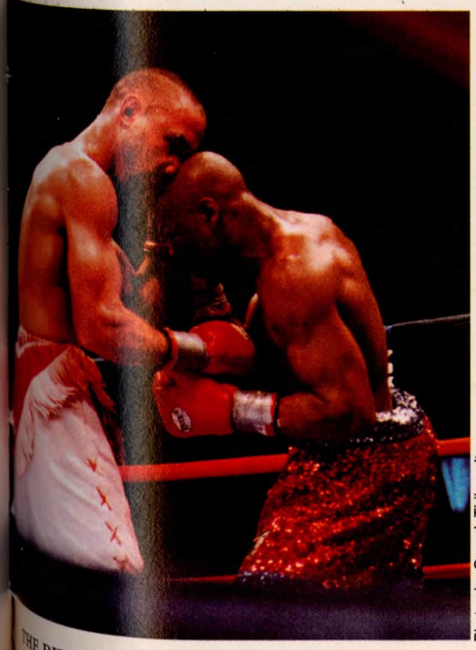
Momentarily, McKart was in trouble, and Davis opened up with both hands. Dazed and bleeding, McKart took his lumps and rode it out. It was an ordeal he'll draw strength from in future crises, the punishing test he'd been seeking when he agreed to the match.

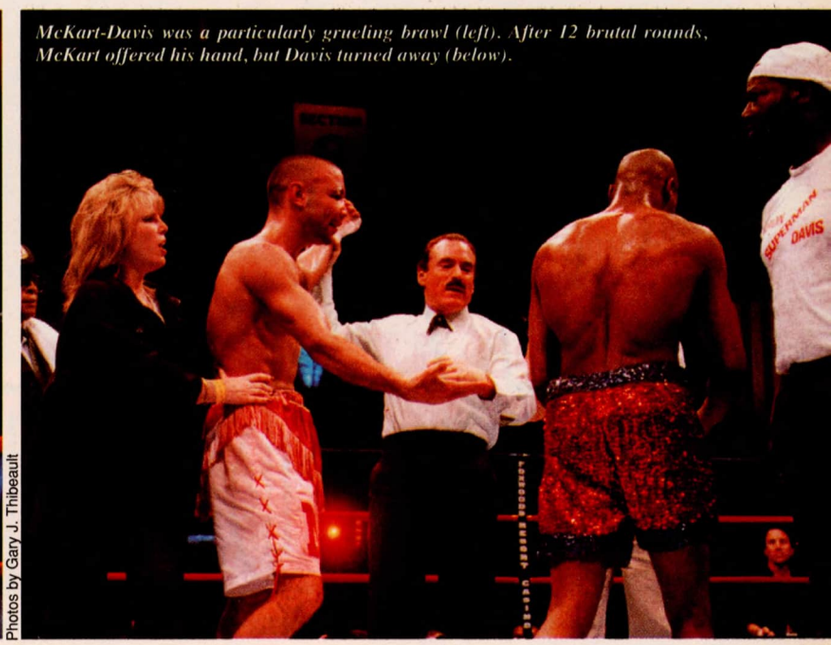
"It was my toughest fight by far," said McKart. "I didn't underestimate him, but I thought for sure that he would die out around the eighth and ninth rounds if I kept up a strong pace. But he got stronger. Basically, it came down to a battle of wills."

McKart won the battle, reestablishing his authority in the 10th, and then going for a big finish in the 11th. Again, his left uppercut was the big punch, and he staggered Davis into the ropes with 35 seconds remaining in the round. McKart let fly with everything in his arsenal, rattling Davis again, this time with a right. But Davis stubbornly refused to go down. It was an important fight for him, too, an opportunity to wash away the disappointment of the past few years.

The small but enthusiastic crowd at the Foxwoods Resort in Ledyard, Connecticut, was already on its feet at the start of the final round. Both fighters were invigorated by the cheers and slugged it out until the final bell. Not only had

(Continued on page 77)





McKart-Davis was a particularly grueling brawl (left). After 12 brutal rounds, McKart offered his hand, but Davis turned away (below).

Photos by Gary J. Thibeault

him and I understand how good he is, but I know that, win, lose, or draw, there's going to be life after this for me.

THE RING: *You and your manager have stated your game plan for the Tyson fight will be an all-out attack from the opening bell. Many people think this is a bad strategy that plays right into Tyson's strengths. Are you considering any alternatives? And what happens if the fight goes three or four rounds?*

PM: I would like to be able to hang right in there and work with him. Sooner or later, after setting a torrid pace, we're both going to have to settle down and box. I would like to get Tyson out there and then work on him. That would better suit me—if I can't get him out of there early, to get him a few rounds into the fight and work his body. I don't think anyone ever really goes to Tyson's body. I'm certain there will be some power and speed there, but he's definitely going to be off.

THE RING: *Have you watched tapes of Tyson, specifically his loss to Buster Douglas?*

PM: I have all the fights on tape, but I haven't watched them in years.

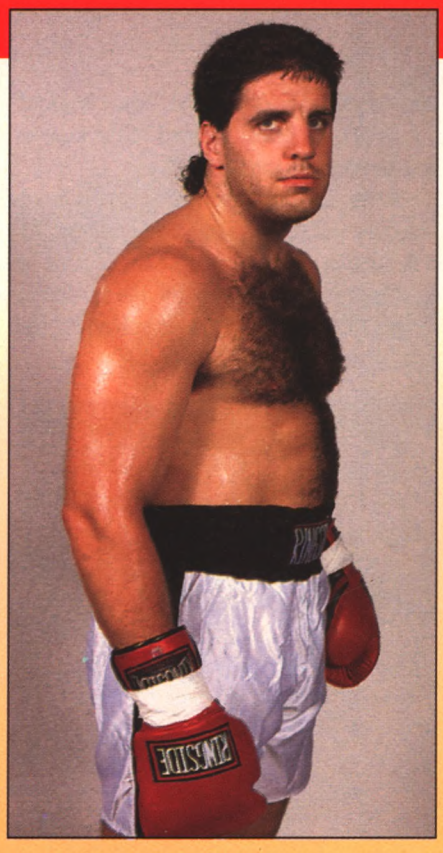
THE RING: *Will you watch them before August 19?*

PM: Yes. Maybe even more for motivational purposes than to study him, because I'm telling you we're going to see a different Tyson as far as his pace and timing is concerned. I might watch to see just what he does right off the opening bell, what punch he throws. We know he likes that right hook to the side followed by the right uppercut—that's what he almost stopped Douglas with—and we'll have to try and avoid that.

THE RING: *With all your family history and popularity in the Boston area, are you at all disappointed that your first big bout has to come so far from home?*

PM: No, no, I'm not. I just realize the magnitude of this event takes precedence. It could never be done in this area. Growing up as a kid, I always knew that if I was ever going to fight a big fight, it was going to be in Las Vegas. Most fighters dream about fighting their biggest fight in Vegas, at the biggest hotel in the world, which is the MGM Grand. And against the biggest name in the boxing world. It's no secret: This whole event is going to be maybe the fight of the century. The numbers may eclipse Ali-Frazier I. In my eyes, if it does that, then my dreams will have come true.

"I would like to get Tyson out there and then work on him. I don't think anyone ever really goes to Tyson's body. I'm certain there will be some power and speed there, but he's definitely going to be off."



THE RING: *With Don King promoting Mike Tyson's first comeback fight, there's already been a ton of hype. Add to that the fact that you're a popular, white heavyweight who is photogenic, with a record that's seen as controversial, and there's going to be constant pressure from the media. How are you going to possibly focus on the fight?*

PM: We had a good dry run last fall with the Oliver McCall announcement. [King initially trumpeted McNeeley as McCall's first challenger.] Obviously, this is of bigger magnitude. We're trying to get back into the routine of training while still trying to fulfill the needs of the press. But we're going to have a cut-off date in the upcoming weeks where we spend less time with people.

THE RING: *You've had temptations along the way to sign with other promoters and for other fights. We heard you were offered $100,000 to fight Tommy Morrison and $50,000 to fight Joe Hipp. But you've never wavered from Vinnie Vecchione's plan.*

PM: Maybe after the Tyson fight, me and Morrison will be a great fight. I never had a doubt in my mind with Vinnie, though. I always knew we were headed in the right direction.

THE RING: *Since the Stanley Wright bout [McNeeley dominated the 6'10", 280-pound former basketball star, but ran out of gas in the eighth round after sustaining a 35-stitch cut], you've had a dozen early knockout wins. Vecchione likes to compare your development to a four-year college education, but here in the fourth year the bouts have been briefer than ever. And they've come against no-so competition. What have you learned in these last 12 fights?*

PM: I don't know about learning as much as just [taking] a step up. There was a lot of maturity both physically and mentally. All facets of my style and demeanor have matured. And physically, I've gotten bigger and stronger. We've gone on to a whole new level of sparring partners. I look back now at a tape of my first or second fight after Stanley and compare it to my more recent work and the maturity level is astonishing.

THE RING: *What opponent taught you the most?*

PM: Butch Kelly, Jimmy Harrison, Duane Hall. Juan Quintana—I learned a lot in that fight because it was supposed to be a six-rounder, and we got there and they changed it to an eight. I moved and jabbed in that fight, jabbed the s__ out of him, which is not my usual style. But I proved I could box, too.

THE RING: *You haven't made a lot of money in your career. What is the first and most important thing you'll do with this paycheck?*

PM: To tell you the truth, I'm not really thinking about that too much. Everybody assumes maybe a new car, but I just got a new car three weeks ago, the first really nice

(Continued on page 7)

Though neither heavyweight is a reigning world champion, a clash between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield may still be the best matchup the division can offer.

SPECIAL SECTION

The Fights We'd Like to See

A Division–By–Division Analysis

Compiled by Steve Farhood

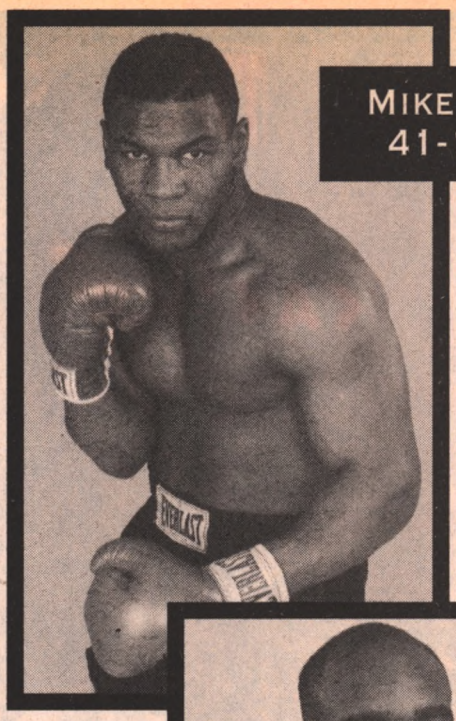
In 1969, The Rolling Stones warned us "you can't always get what you want." Who knew they were warbling about boxing matchups? We want Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield, but we get Tyson-Peter McNeeley. We want Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad, but we get Whitaker-Gary Jacobs. We want Roy Jones-Nigel Benn, but we get Jones-Tony Thornton.

Music by Jagger and Richards. Lyrics by King, Arum, and Duva.

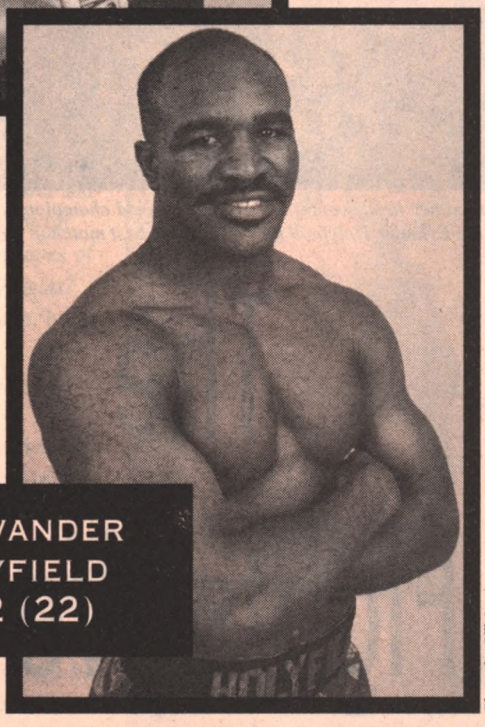
It would be wonderful, of course, if the most attractive bouts were always made. If that were the case, however, we'd never have the opportunity to rhapsodize about dream fights. In this exclusive feature, THE RING analyzes the fights we'd most like to see, one per division. Hopefully, they're the fights you'd most like to see, too.

Some of our matchups, like Oscar De La Hoya-Miguel Angel Gonzalez, will probably materialize. Others, like Julio Cesar Chavez-Kostya Tszyu, will be made as soon as there's world peace. Nonetheless, great fighters (not to mention great fans) need great fights, and we're more than happy to give them what their promoters are failing to provide.

If you read THE RING, you just might find you get what you need.



MIKE TYSON
41-1 (36)



VS. EVANDER HOLYFIELD
31-2 (22)

Photo by Bill Apter

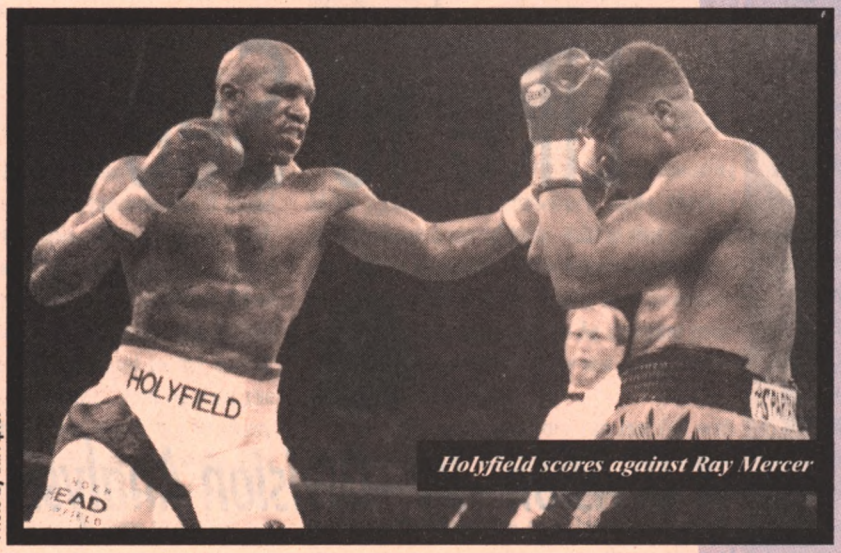


Photo by Bill Apter

Holyfield scores against Ray Mercer

What Makes It So Hot: If this fight ever materializes, it will have survived more roadblocks than Dr. Richard Kimball. When Tyson was champion, Buster Douglas got in the way. When Holyfield was champion, Tyson took on the State of Indiana and got kayoed. Now both fighters are on the comeback trail. And something tells us they want the fight just as much as the public does.

Chance Of Happening: 50%

Tyson Will Win If ... The difference turns out to be his huge edge in power. In case you haven't noticed, Holyfield can be easier to hit than a knuckleball that doesn't knuckle. Everything else being equal, "The Real Deal" will lack the great equalizer.

Holyfield Will Win If ... His determination enables him to carry the fight into the middle rounds and Tyson subsequently tires. Who knows how much Tyson's four-year layoff cost him. One thing's for sure: Holyfield will be fighting till the very end.

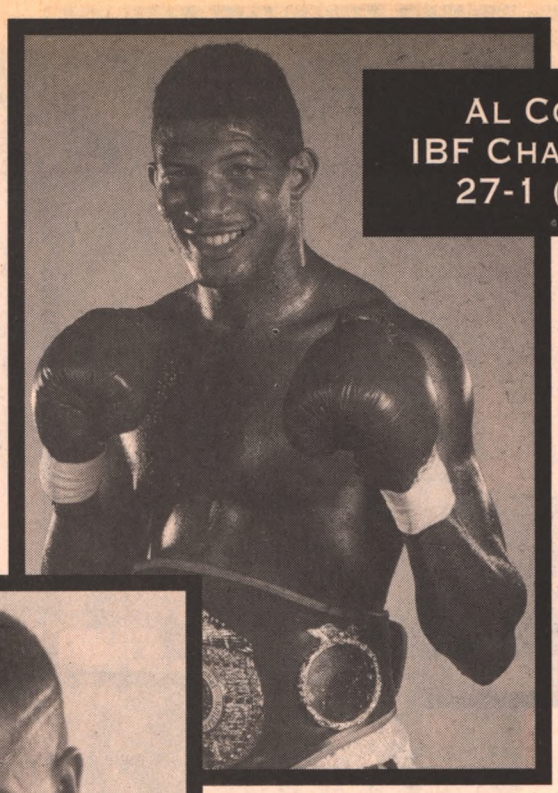
The Intangibles: Holyfield believes only a win over Tyson will validate his greatness. Can "Iron Mike" match such unique motivation? ... Holyfield has begun to swell up and suffer eye cuts. Has he been in one war too many?

The Pick: Tyson by seventh-round kayo. Because styles make fights, we liked Tyson the first time around and the second time around, and we still like him. But we can't be sure how effective he'll be in The Second Coming. Bet with play-money only.

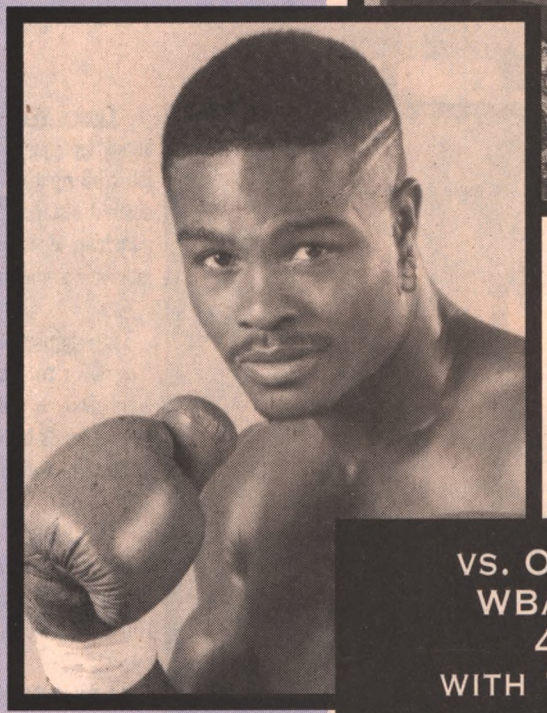
A Second Opinion: "If Tyson comes back as the Tyson we knew, I'd pick Tyson. But he's been off for a long time. Holyfield looked pretty good against Ray Mercer. He still has the hunger and the tenacity. Until I see Tyson again, I'll go with Evander on points."

–USBA heavyweight champion Buster Mathis Jr.

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Tyson-Riddick Bowe. Some people think we're crazy, but we think Bowe will kayo "Iron Mike." Let's hope he gets the chance.



AL COLE
IBF CHAMPION
27-1 (13)



VS. ORLIN NORRIS
WBA CHAMPION
43-3 (24)
WITH 1 NO-DECISION

What Makes It So Hot: You think it's easy finding a cruiserweight matchup anybody actually cares about? At least these guys are established champions, a commodity the division isn't accustomed to. There's also the intriguing size factor; the 6'4" Cole likes to fight inside, and the 5'11" Norris is a more-than-capable boxer in ring-center.

Chance Of Happening: 40%

Cole Will Win If ... His reach advantage proves too much for Norris to overcome. Cole is hardly your classic stick-and-move type. But he's capable of changing angles, and when the cruisers fire away from a distance, he'll benefit from superior leverage.

Norris Will Win If ... Cole's instincts take over and the bout turns into a phone booth war. This figures to be a distance fight, and Norris is far more experienced against quality opposition. At close range, he'll feature the heavier hands and the better body attack.

Intangibles: Both fighters are anxious to jump to heavyweight. Will one or the other have difficulty reducing to 190 pounds? ... So many of Norris' fights have been decided by controversial decisions. Whose style will the judges prefer?

The Pick: Norris by decision. When does a 6'4" cruiserweight fight on the inside? When he can't help himself. Cole is probably as tough as Norris, but in the trenches, we'll go with the proven commodity.

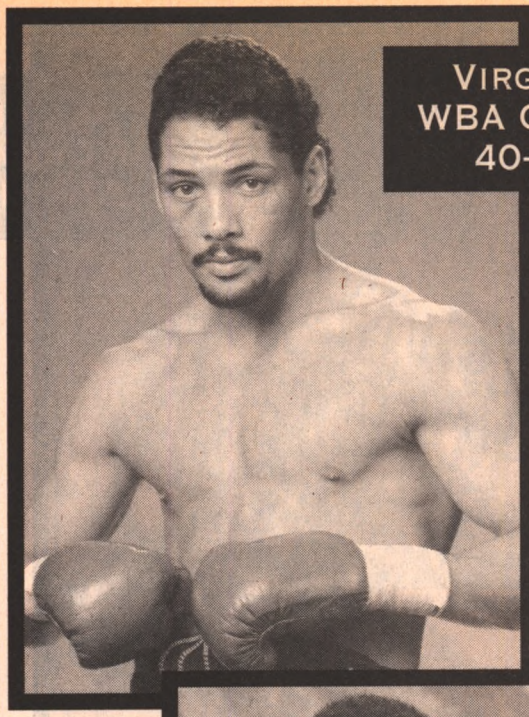
A Second Opinion: "Based on Norris' last two performances, I'd pick Cole. I think he has the ability to outbox him. But that's only if he's not weakened by weight problems."

–Former WBA cruiserweight champion Robert Daniels

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Norris-Adolpho Washington II. The first battle was one of the best cruiser fights we've ever seen, so why not do it again?

Norris makes war with Adolpho Washington

Photo by Ray Bailey

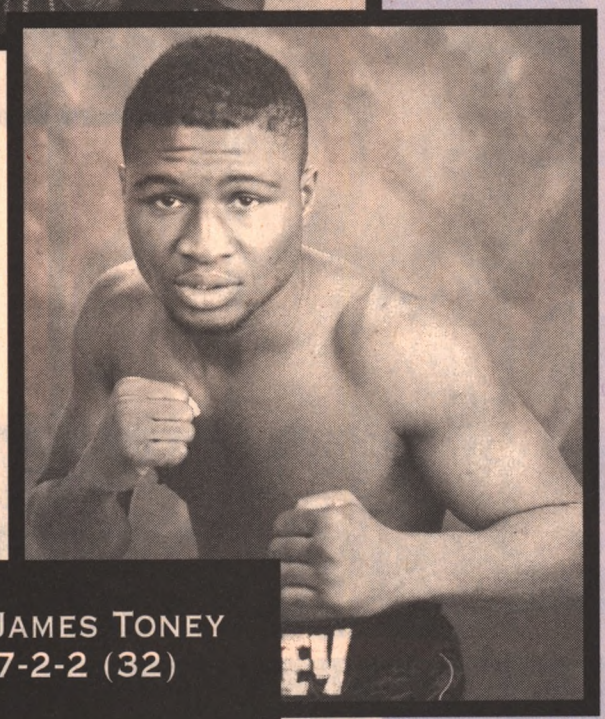


VIRGIL HILL
WBA CHAMPION
40-1 (20)

What Makes It So Hot: Would you rather see Hill-Michael Nunn? This division has recently been defined by the big fights that *haven't* happened, such as Hill-Michael Moorer, Moorer-Prince Charles Williams, and Hill-Mike McCallum. Something tells us if anyone can enliven a Hill fight, it's Toney. Let the chase begin.

Chance Of Happening: 70%

Hill Will Win If ... He piles up points with his jab, stays away from Toney as if the former champion were radioactive, and accelerates over the last four rounds. Nobody likes to fight a runner, and legs are definitely Hill's strength.



VS. JAMES TONEY
47-2-2 (32)

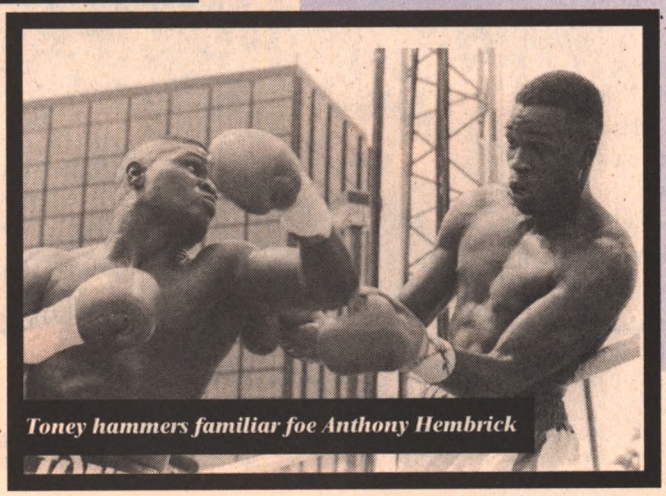
Toney Will Win If ... He nullifies Hill's attack by consistently slipping or countering his jab with right hands. If Toney can operate at his desired distance, his diverse attack and superior punching technique will sufficiently impress the judges in a bout that is sure to go 12 rounds.

Intangibles: Assuming the bout lands in Las Vegas, or for that matter anyplace other than North Dakota, will Hill lose his edge? Will Hill's fragile hands become a factor? Will Toney blow up after the weigh-in and lose speed and mobility?

The Pick: Toney by decision. The styles would seem to favor Hill, but don't forget that Toney is a defensive master. If he neutralizes Hill's jab, the champion won't have a Plan B.

A Second Opinion: "I pick Hill to win. Toney is a one-dimensional fighter who just fights off the ropes. Hill is much more versatile, and he'll fight Toney as Roy Jones did."

–NABF light heavyweight champion Merqui Sosa



Toney hammers familiar foe Anthony Hembrick

Photo by Chris Farina

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Henry Maske vs. Toney. Maske is better than we think. Toney isn't as bad as he looked against Roy Jones and Montell Griffin. If you appreciate the subtleties of infighting, you'll love this one.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

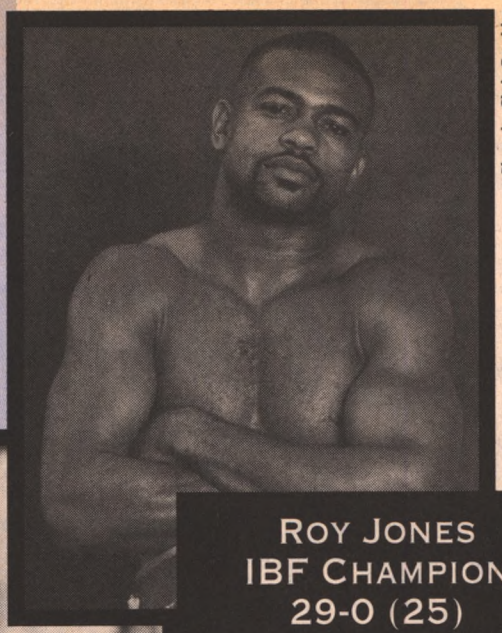


Photo by Chris Cassidy

ROY JONES
IBF CHAMPION
29-0 (25)

VS. NIGEL BENN
WBC CHAMPION
40-2-1 (33)

What Makes It So Hot: Both of these champions are compelling ...s. Jones is streaking, and even *he* probably doesn't know just ... good he really is. Benn has made the transition from bomber to ..., and judging by his incredible performance against Gerald ...Clellan in February, back to bomber. Jones follows Pernell ...ker at the top of the pound-for-pound ratings. In today's 168- ...d world, only Benn can provide suitable competition.

Chance Of Happening: 70%

Jones Will Win If ... He simply proves himself a class above. ... has his hammers, but Jones is difficult to nail. The IBF champi- ...will likely control the ...go, and if Benn is con- ... to match skills, he'll ...picked apart.

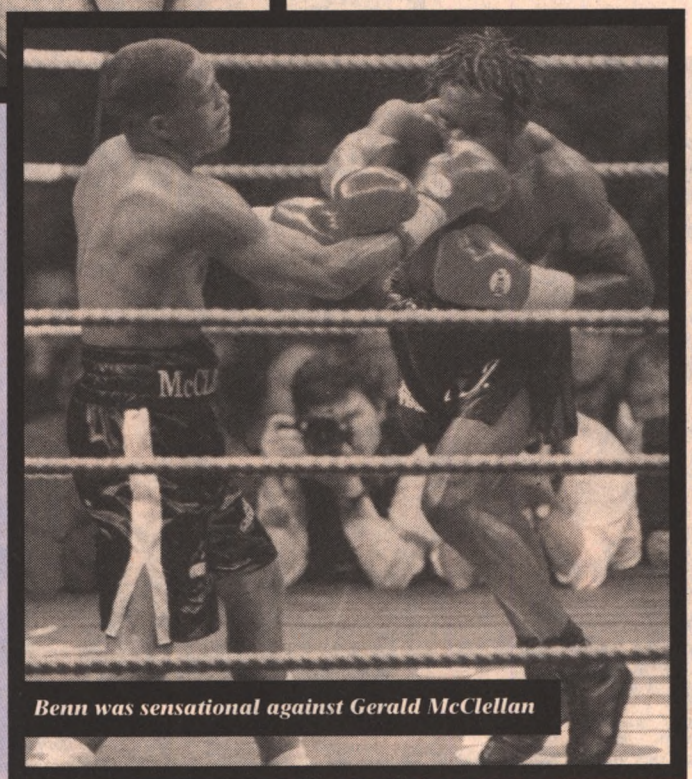
Benn Will Win If ... ...turns the fight into a ...d brawl. Forget the ...y dan routine; Benn ...retained the mentality ...a cleanup hitter. His ... doesn't trigger mem- ...s of Jake LaMotta, but ...s shown tons of guts in ...ring off the canvas to ... How will Jones react ...ings get nasty?

Intangibles: Will ... be haunted by the ...Clellan tragedy? ... ...Jones be distracted by ...pponent who is just as ...ward and unorthodox ...e is? ... In respecting ...h other's power, will Jones and Benn produce a ...ter?

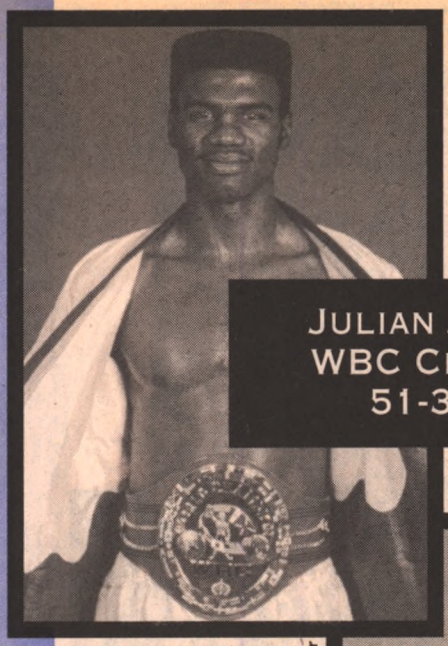
The Pick: Jones by fifth-round kayo. Or, if Benn tries ... duck-and-duck routine along the ropes, maybe sooner. ...n's bombs could bring some uncomfortable moments, ...Jones will wait for the perfect moment and finish the ...lishman with a left hook.

A Second Opinion: "I don't see Jones having any ...le with Benn whatsoever. Benn would be too slow, ...unless he lands a bomb early, Jones would knock him ...inside of seven rounds."
-USBA super middleweight champion Tony Thornton

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Benn-Chris ...bank III. The best grudge rivalry since Bobby Chacon ...Bazooka Limon. Eubank won the first fight, and ...st observers thought Benn deserved the rematch, ...ich was judged a draw. Still a huge fight in England.



Benn was sensational against Gerald McClellan



JULIAN JACKSON
WBC CHAMPION
51-3 (47)

What Makes It So Hot: At this point, *any* bout involving Jackson is hot. As was suggested by his March squash of Agostino Cardamone, "The Hawk" continues to feature a delicious blend of one-punch kayo power and one-punch vulnerability. Hopkins isn't a bad puncher himself, and in his first battle vs. Segundo Mercado, his chin twice failed him. Let the bombs fall where they may.

Chance Of Happening: 20%

Jackson Will Win If ... He lands first. Forget Mike Tyson and George Foreman; judging by kayo percentage and quality of opposition, Jackson is the preeminent puncher of his era. If Hopkins makes a mistake, he won't get the chance to make another. One other thing Hopkins should keep in mind: Jackson is most dangerous when hurt.

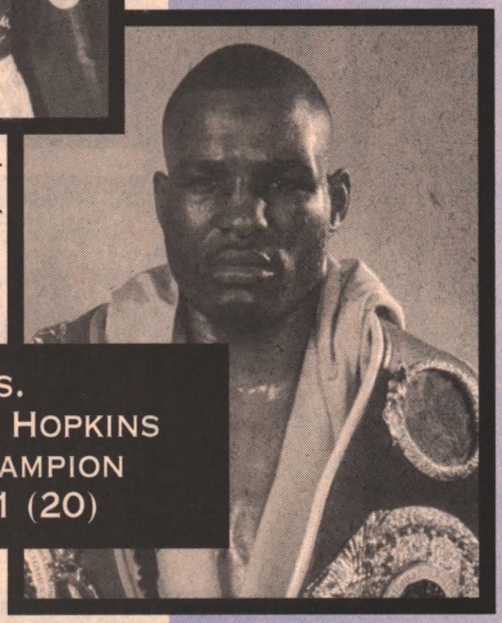


Photo by Bill Apter

VS.
BERNARD HOPKINS
IBF CHAMPION
27-2-1 (20)

Hopkins Will Win If ... He lands first. Or boxes with patience for all 12 rounds. Or ambushes Jackson the way Gerald McClellan did. In other words, there are a lot more scenarios that favor "The Executioner." Hopkins, 30, is only four years younger than Jackson, but far fresher.

Intangibles: If his two kayo losses to McClellan were more indicative of Jackson's condition than his win over Cardamone, is The Hawk a totally shot fighter? ... Aware of his opponent's exceptional power, will Hopkins fight tentatively, as he did against Roy Jones?

The Pick: Hopkins by fourth-round kayo. Now that he's a world champion, we're guessing he's already gained a dose of confidence. That will be critical against Jackson because the biggest mistake Hopkins could make would be to give The Hawk the impression he has a chance to win.

A Second Opinion: "Jackson is stronger in the early rounds and Hopkins, who is durable, would be stronger late. But I don't think Hopkins has a great chin, and Jackson might catch him early. Jackson by early-round kayo."

–NABF middleweight champion Quincy Taylor

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Jorge Castro-John David Jackson II. Their first duel was 1994's Fight of the Year, so why not run it back?

Jackson stalks Agostino Cardamone

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

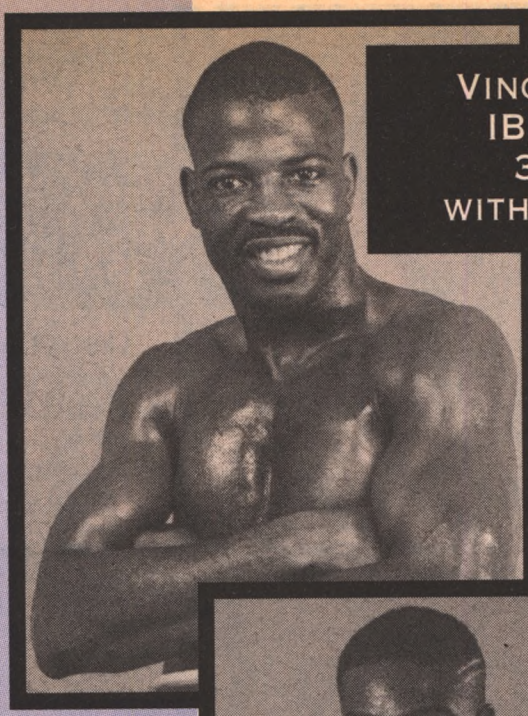
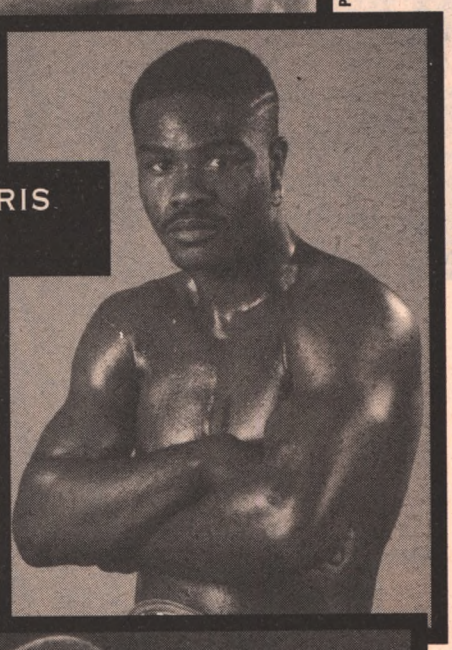


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

VINCENT PETTWAY
IBF CHAMPION
38-4-1 (31)
WITH 1 NO-CONTEST



VS. TERRY NORRIS
38-6 (23)

What Makes It So Hot: They'll need the CompuBox crew to count the knockdowns, not just the punches. Both Pettway and Norris are tremendous offensive fighters whose chins often leave them defenseless. On paper, this is your classic don't-get-up-to-get-beer fight. Not just that, but you can never be sure when Norris might land a cheap shot.

Chance Of Happening: 60%

Pettway Will Win If ... He can land the same punches that floored Simon Brown. The confidence Pettway gained by rising from the canvas to stop Brown is immeasurable. Conversely, Norris' psyche has to have been damaged by his bizarre battles with Luis Santana. If Pettway-Norris turns into a shootout, we like Pettway big.

Norris Will Win If ... He regains the self-control that was absent in his rematch with Brown. In recent bouts, Norris has resembled a raving lunatic. However, no one has ever questioned his talent, and he might be smooth enough to extend Pettway the distance and edge him on points.

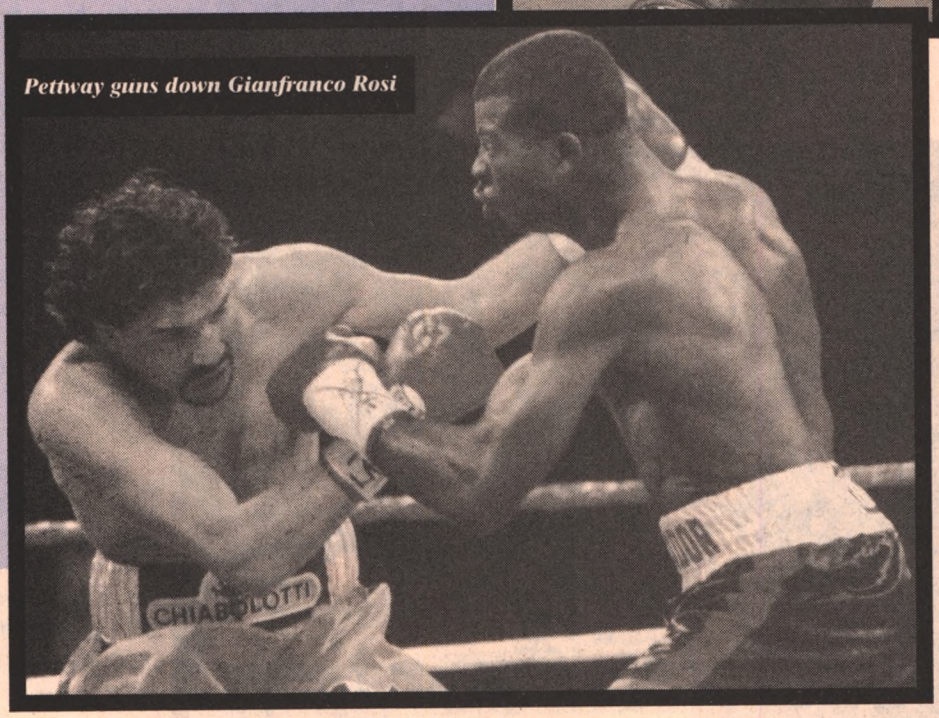
Intangibles: It's not just Norris who has constantly engaged in foulfests. Will Pettway, who openly traded butts, low blows, and after-the-bell punches with Gianfranco Rosi and Brown, be first to test the patience of the referee?

The Pick: Norris by eighth-round kayo. But we wouldn't bet on this one with playing. The guess: This will be more of a chess match than a nuclear war. Norris is both quicker and more mobile. If he fights within the rules, boxing's angry young man is still capable of regaining his former status.

A Second Opinion: "It could be an exciting war, the battle of the chinless. Whichever chin goes first ... If Norris boxes, he could have a fun night. Terry has overall better skills, so I pick him by knockout."

-Junior middleweight contender Paul "The Ultimate" Vaden

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Norris vs. Buddy McGirt. "Terrible Terry's" offensive style would mesh well with McGirt's pinpoint counterpunching. We're not sure Norris deserves another chance, but McGirt certainly does.

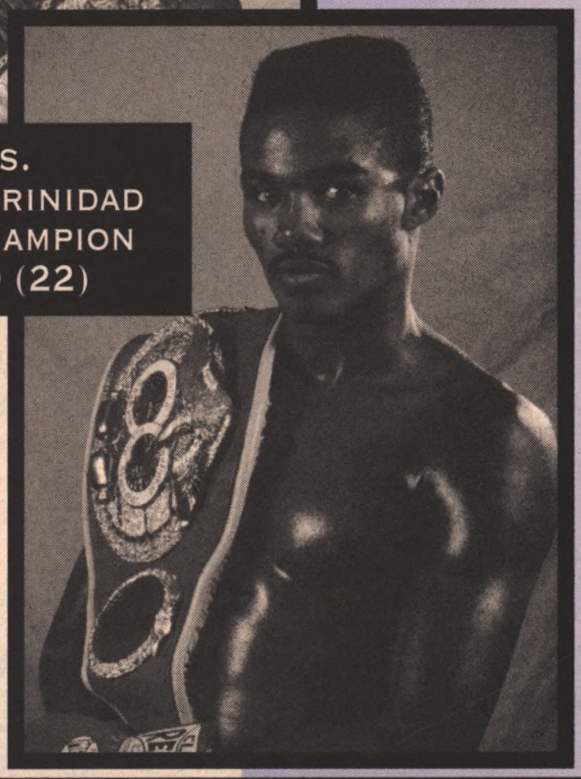


Pettway guns down Gianfranco Rosi

WELTERWEIGHTS

PERNELL WHITAKER
WBC CHAMPION
35-1-1 (15)

VS.
FELIX TRINIDAD
IBF CHAMPION
26-0 (22)



What Makes It So Hot: Any showdown involving a pair of pound-for-pound entrants is okay by us. Whitaker is a great fighter, if not an all-time great, while Trinidad needs a win over "Sweet Pea" to establish his greatness. One welter is the ultimate boxer, the other a devastating puncher. If you still need convincing, maybe an extra-terrestrial matchup might suit you better.

Chance Of Happening: 30%

Whitaker Will Win If ... He's fully motivated and properly conditioned. Question his chin and criticize his power all you want, but the fact remains that Whitaker should be 37-0. If boxing's best fighter shows all of his moves, he'll give Trinidad nothing but shadows to punch at.

Trinidad Will Win If ... An early-rounds power surge leaves Whitaker on the defensive. Remarkably poised for 22, Trinidad will feature a purposeful and diverse attack. If he puts the first two or three rounds in the bank, Whitaker may have to adopt an ineffective stick-and-move approach.

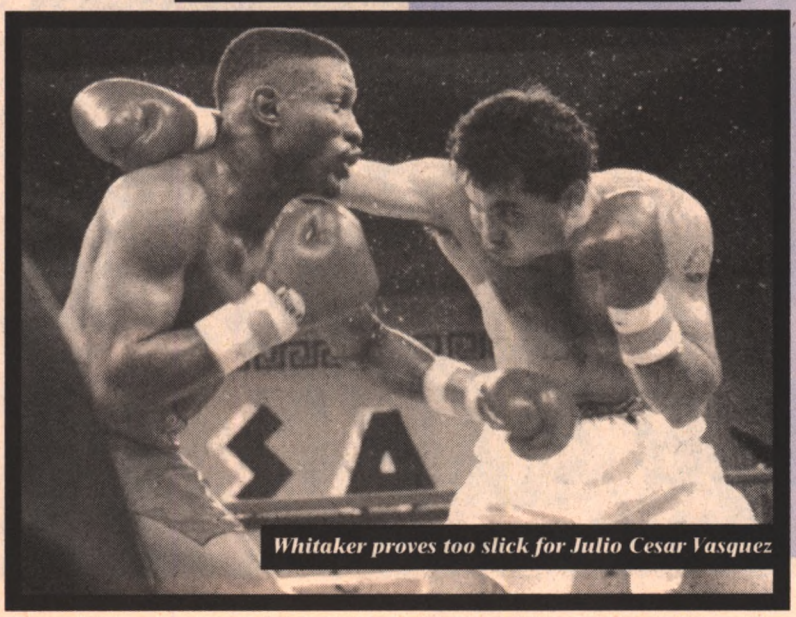
The Intangibles: Will the 5'11" Trinidad simply prove too big and strong? ... Trinidad has been floored by a variety of opponents. Will Whitaker's sharp left hand become the bout's dominant weapon? ... With Trinidad likely to move forward throughout, will the judges once again punish Whitaker for his safety-first style?

The Pick: Whitaker on points. We'd like to pick against Sweet Pea just to be different, but he'll be pumped for Trinidad, and he has a history of exposing big punchers to their first case of impotence.

A Second Opinion: "Whitaker is smarter and more experienced. Trinidad is a much harder puncher, and maybe Whitaker will have to get off the floor. But Pernell has proven he can get around stronger guys. Trinidad's lack of experience would hurt him. Whitaker can't knock anybody out, so he'll win by unanimous decision."

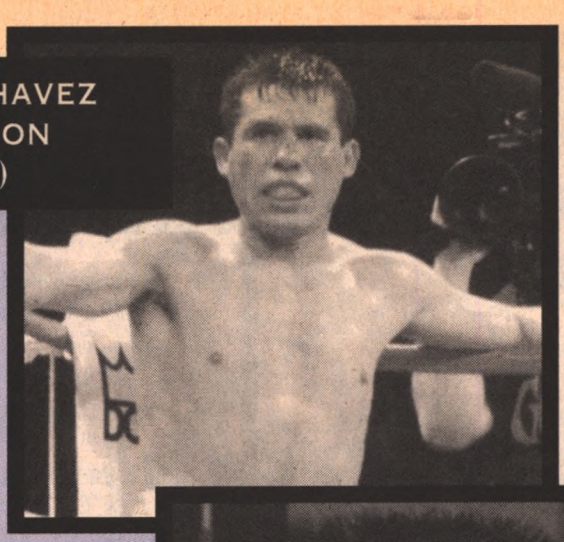
–NABF welterweight champion Derrell Coley

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing... Trinidad vs. Ike Quartey. A unification match between Whitaker and WBA champion Quartey will be made later this year. But from a fan's perspective, Trinidad-Quartey might be a better fight. A knockout would be all but guaranteed.



Whitaker proves too slick for Julio Cesar Vasquez

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
WBC CHAMPION
93-1-1 (76)



What Makes It So Hot: Ever since Chavez was thoroughly outfought in his disputed draw with Pernell Whitaker, all of boxing, it seems, has been waiting for him to literally fall on his face. Who better to humble the great "J.C. Superstar" and mark the beginning of a new era than Tszyu, who, with a victory in this showdown, would succeed Chavez as boxing's greatest Mexican-American star.

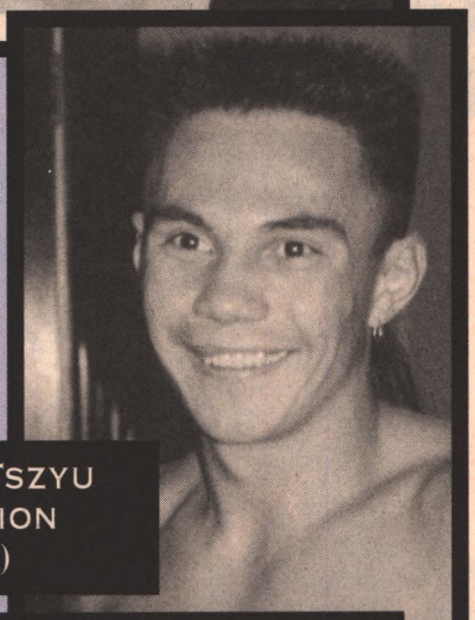
Chance Of Happening: 20%.

Chavez Will Win If ... His chin, one of the best of his generation, discourages the powerpunching Tszyu. Chavez will need to work inside; his ticket to victory is a draining 12-round phone booth war. Maybe the Mexican warrior has one more monster effort to give.

Tszyu Will Win If ... He lands the kind of right hands Frankie Randall used to down Chavez. The Australia-based Russian is every bit as terrific a hitter as Oscar De La Hoya, and Chavez' defense has more holes than a practice putting green.

Intangibles: In a bout against a bigger puncher, will Chavez' immense pride work against him? ... Will Tszyu's lack of experience ultimately cost him against an opponent who has had 80 more fights? ... Will Chavez simply be overwhelmed by a young and fearless foe?

VS. KOSTYA TSZYU
IBF CHAMPION
14-0 (11)

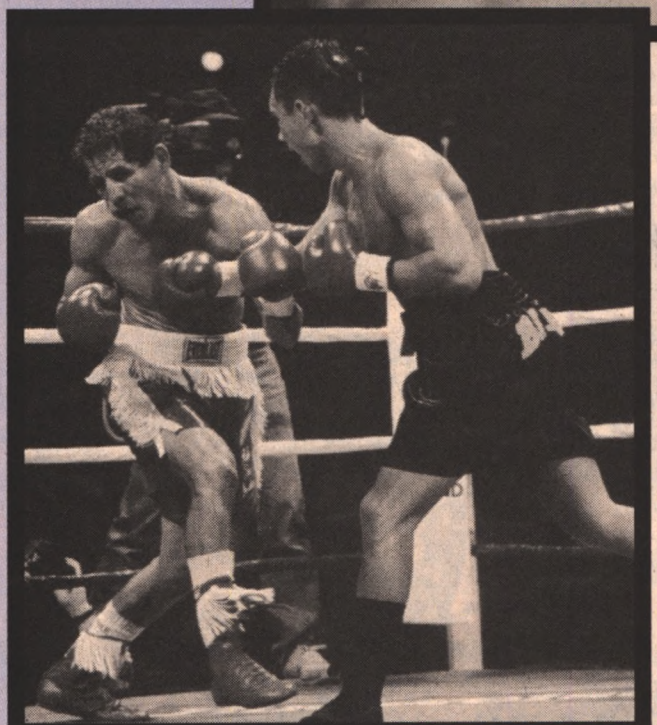


The Pick: Tszyu by unanimous decision. The temptation is to pick him by kayo, but our unofficial policy is to never predict a stoppage loss for a fighter who hasn't yet been stopped. Chavez' decline hasn't been as rapid as we might have anticipated. But that's balanced by the fact that Tszyu is probably better than we realize.

A Second Opinion: "Tszyu to win, maybe by knockout. He has the power, which I've felt. Chavez had his day. He's on the way down, and Tszyu is on the way up."

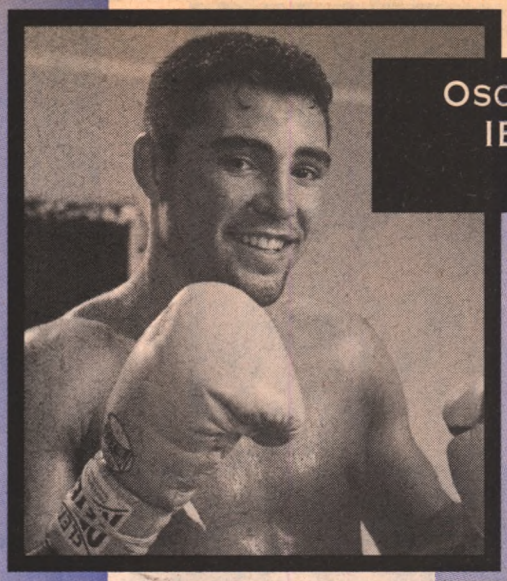
–Former IBF junior welterweight champion Jake Rodriguez

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Chavez-Randall III, which is a helluva lot more likely to materialize than Chavez-Tszyu. It's funny how the conventional wisdom is that Randall deserves a third shot at Chavez. We think it's Chavez who needs the bout, for redemption, if nothing else.



Tszyu punishes Jake Rodriguez in his title-winning effort

Photo by Tom Casino



OSCAR DE LA HOYA
IBF CHAMPION
18-0 (16)

What Makes It So Hot: If we can't have De La Hoya-Chavez, we'll gladly settle for De La Hoya vs. the Mexican champion who just might be the next Chavez. One other thing: "The Golden Boy" is talking about defending against Genaro Hernandez, Jesse James Leija, and Gabe Ruelas. All three are 130-pounders. Hey, Oscar, if you want big fights and nothing but big fights, what's bigger than a unification bout against a champion who hasn't lost in 37 fights?

Chance Of Happening: 70%

De La Hoya Will Win If ... His power overwhelms Gonzalez, whose chin remains suspect. When the 5'11" De La Hoya takes on most lightweights, it doesn't seem a fair fight. There's a reasonable chance that Gonzalez, like Rafael Ruelas, won't last into the middle rounds.

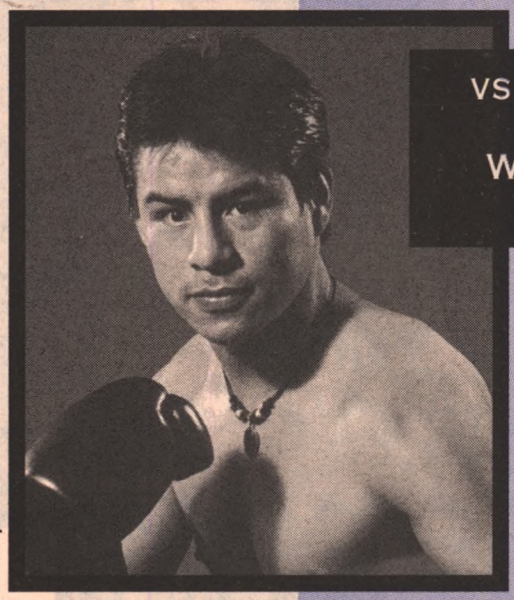


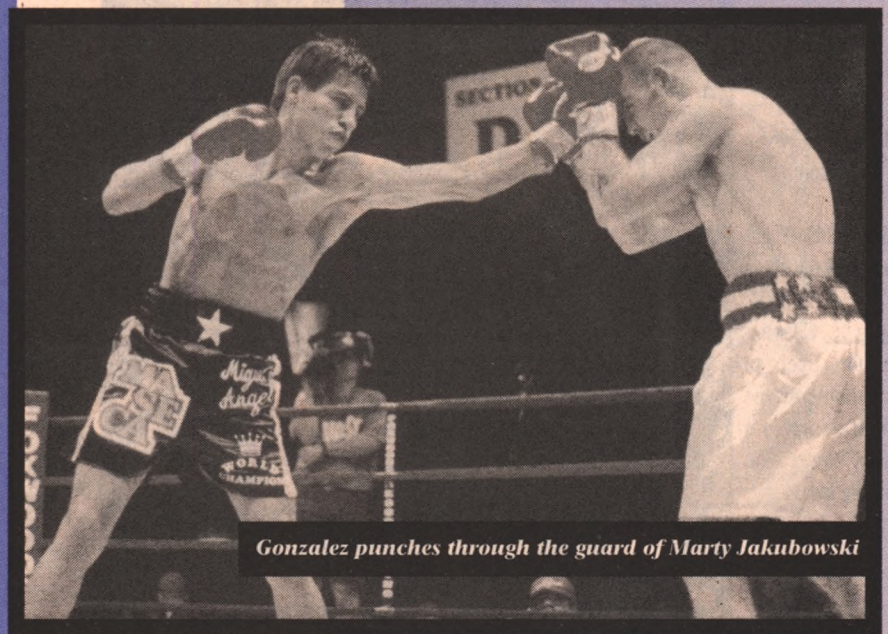
Photo by Chris Farina

VS. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
WBC CHAMPION
37-0 (29)

Gonzalez Will Win If ... He manages to implement the strategy that failed to work for Ruelas. The Mexican is an outstanding body-puncher. Once he gets inside, De La Hoya's long arms become a disadvantage. The key, of course, is to minimize the price paid for getting inside.

Intangibles: Has De La Hoya learned from his uncomfortable 12 rounds with John-John Molina? ... Will Gonzalez continue to struggle making 135 pounds? ... Though he's a veteran champion, Gonzalez hasn't met anyone who even approaches the class of De La Hoya. Will the jump in class prove too severe?

The Pick: De La Hoya by fourth-round kayo. We picked The Golden Boy to manhandle Ruelas in two. (Shocking when we get one right, isn't it?). And we're gonna ride him until he fails to find the winner's circle. Besides, given Gonzalez' shaky chin, those who support the Mexican are going to find themselves holding their breaths from opening to closing bell.



Gonzalez punches through the guard of Marty Jakubowski

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

A Second Opinion: "I'm not quite sure just how good De La Hoya is. Of course, I'm very well acquainted with Gonzalez by now. Both fighters have questionable chins, and whoever guts it out in the end will win. Gonzalez throws a lot of punches. I'll pick him on points."

–Lightweight contender Marty Jakubowski

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing... Orzubek Nazarov vs. just about anybody. Anyone who's good enough to crush Joey Gamache in two rounds (and in Maine, no less) deserves to meet the division's best.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

What Makes It So Hot: Who needs Oscar? Instead of rising in weight to challenge De La Hoya, these two Southern Californians should duke it out to crown the best junior lightweight in the world. Given their crowd-pleasing styles and diverse skills, this is a dream matchup. Back off, Las Vegas; this showdown belongs in Los Angeles, at either the Olympic Auditorium or the Great Western Forum.

Chance Of Happening: 50%

Ruelas Will Win If ... He maintains his recent form. Who put the animal in this guy, anyway? In recent outings against Jesse James Leija, Freddie Liberatore, and Jimmy Garcia, Ruelas fought as if trying to validate those early-career comparisons to Roberto Duran. If he jumps on Hernandez from the beginning, he just might forget to let up.

Hernandez Will Win If ... His patience allows him to stage a late-rounds rally. For a stick figure, the 5'11" Hernandez is a surprisingly effective infighter, and his body attack could leave Ruelas gasping for air. The WBA champion has the chin, stamina, and experience to weather Ruelas' early attack.

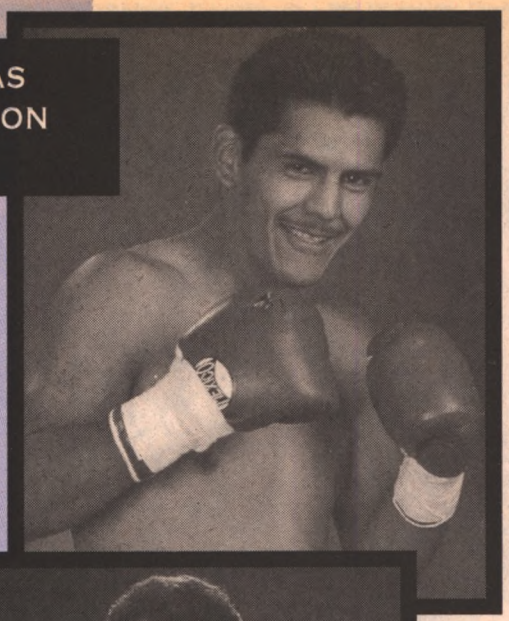
Intangibles: Ruelas has had surgery on his right elbow and Hernandez on his right hand. Will either champion be reduced to a one-armed fighter? ... In the wake of the Jimmy Garcia tragedy, will Ruelas fight tentatively? ... Will Hernandez' tender skin turn out to be a major factor?

The Pick: Ruelas on points. We like his recent past performances. We like the fact that he's faced 130-pounders the quality of Azumah Nelson and Leija, and Hernandez hasn't. Hook-for-hook, we like his edge in power. And remember, Hernandez can't depend on his right hand.

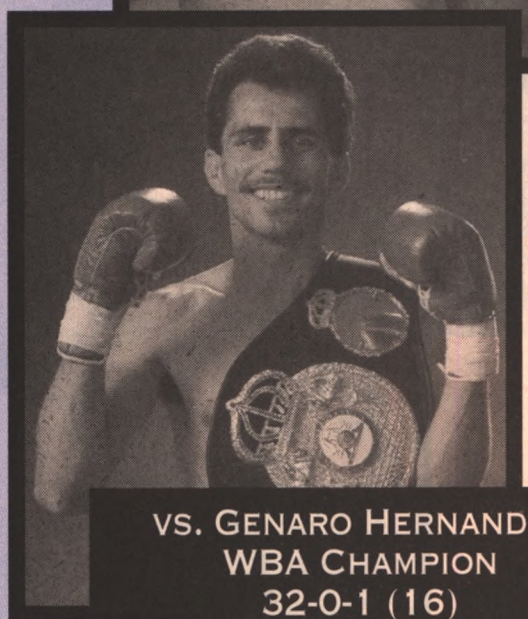
A Second Opinion: "I've always liked Hernandez; he's tall and he's a very good combination puncher. But I understand he's having trouble with his right hand, and he'll need two good hands to keep Ruelas off him. Because of those hand problems, I'd pick Ruelas to outstrength him and win on points."

–Junior lightweight contender Regilio Tuur

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Ruelas vs. Reggie Tuur. Tuur is the division's best–kept secret, and styles will make this showdown a bomb-a-second slugfest. An upset wouldn't surprise us.

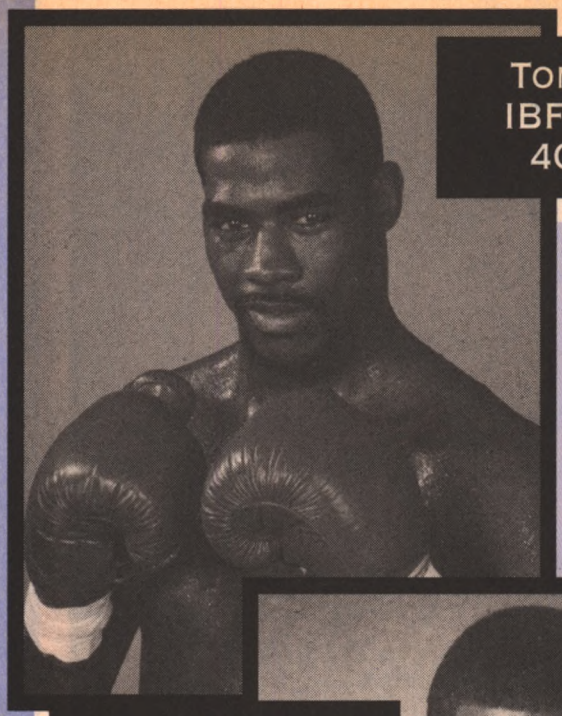


GABE RUELAS
WBC CHAMPION
41-2 (23)



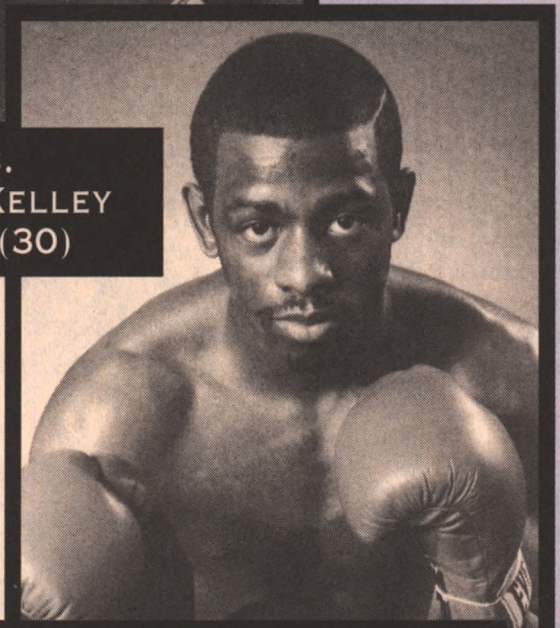
VS. GENARO HERNANDEZ
WBA CHAMPION
32-0-1 (16)

Hernandez chops up Jorge Paez



TOM JOHNSON
IBF CHAMPION
40-2-1 (23)

VS.
KEVIN KELLEY
42-1 (30)



What Makes It So Hot: In this era of unexceptional world champions, Johnson has proven he's legit. Kelley remains one of the most exciting performers in the game. These guys are former promotional stablemates, and a fair amount of woofing has already gone down. In analyzing the matchup, both have spoken of a chess match. We're betting on a brawl.

Chance Of Happening: 50%

Johnson Will Win If ... Kelley is as used up as he's recently looked. "Boom Boom" is capable of creating a wicked pace. About a year ago, we'd have given the harder-punching Kelley the edge in a shootout. But the New Yorker's chin has been failing him. What happened to the master-boxing southpaw who, for the first half of his title-winning fight against Goyo Vargas, seemed the second coming of Pernell Whitaker?

Kelley Will Win If ... He summons one big left hand. He did it against Ricardo Rivera, and he almost did it against Alejandro Gonzalez. Like Johnson, Kelley has proven he can win no matter the terms of the battle. If this turns into a back-alley dog fight, Kelley's heart could prove to be the decisive factor.

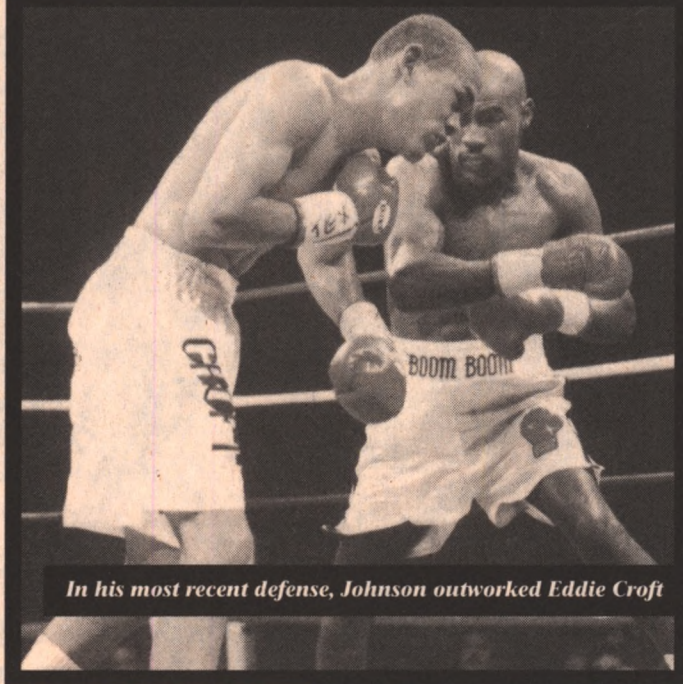
Intangibles: Will Kelley again swell up or be handicapped by eye cuts? ... If the New Yorker regains his form, will he prove too slick for Johnson? ... After the number of wars each has survived, can Johnson and Kelley summon one more Herculean effort?

The Pick: Johnson by unanimous decision. We can't ignore Kelley's recent form. If this turns into a toe-to-toe slugfest, as we suspect it will, Johnson will brawl because he chooses to, while Kelley will brawl because he has no other options.

A Second Opinion: "Kelley never really impressed me. He hasn't been looking good, and I think he's done with. Johnson is a better boxer, and he's always in great condition. He's not a heavy puncher, so I pick him to beat Kelley by decision."

–Featherweight contender Pancho Segura

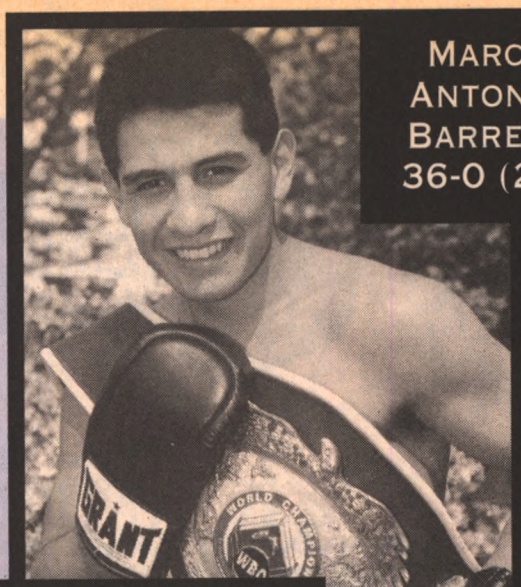
We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Johnson vs. Alejandro Gonzalez. We weren't wowed by WBC champion Gonzalez' defense against Louie Espinoza. Is the young Mexican for real? A bout against the ever-steady Johnson would provide the answer.



In his most recent defense, Johnson outworked Eddie Croft

Photo by Brad Doherty

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS



MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
36-0 (25)

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

VS.
NASEEM HAMED
18-0 (16)

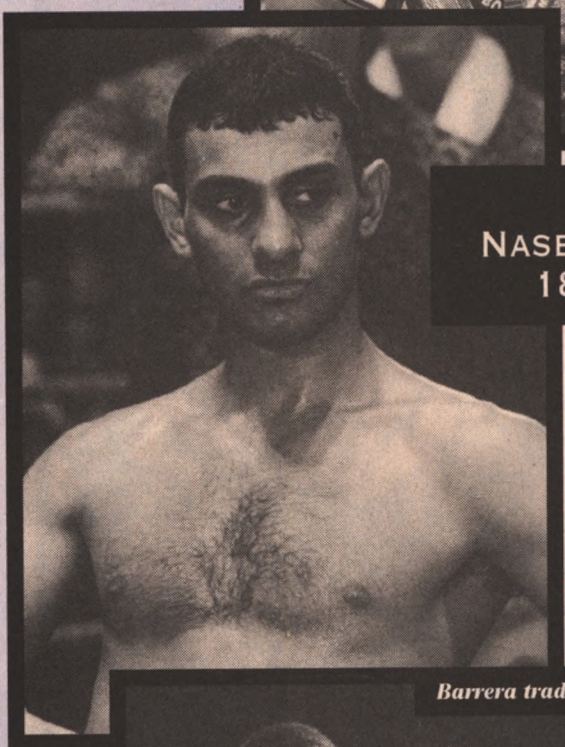


Photo by Chris Cole/Allsport

What Makes It So Hot: Barrera is the latest Mexican youngster to sizzle, and the outrageous Hamed has been mowing down international opposition in England. If these guys are as good as they've said, this could be a classic. Remember when Kennedy McKinney and Tracy Patterson were dominating this division? That seems like years ago.

Chance Of Happening: 20%

Barrera Will Win If ... His punches in bunches wear down Hamed. The Mexican doesn't seem quite the puncher he was as a bantamweight. Still, as evidenced by his high-energy performances against Daniel Jimenez and Frankie Toledo, he is both dangerous and relentless. And in three-dozen outings, he certainly hasn't yet had to extend himself.

Hamed Will Win If ... He turns Barrera's aggressiveness against the Mexican. The flashy Englishman has displayed pinpoint counterpunching and surprising power. Moreover, he doesn't figure to fade in the later rounds.

Intangibles: Will Hamed, who will eventually jump to featherweight, prove stronger than Barrera, who only recently campaigned at 115 pounds? ... Will Barrera impose his will and force Hamed into a defensive mode? ... Will Barrera, who wants to be a lawyer more than a fighter, lack sufficient motivation?

The Pick: Hamed by unanimous decision. The Englishman is far slicker, and his exceptional speed and skills have enabled him to score a slew of impressive knockouts. He just might be the whole package.

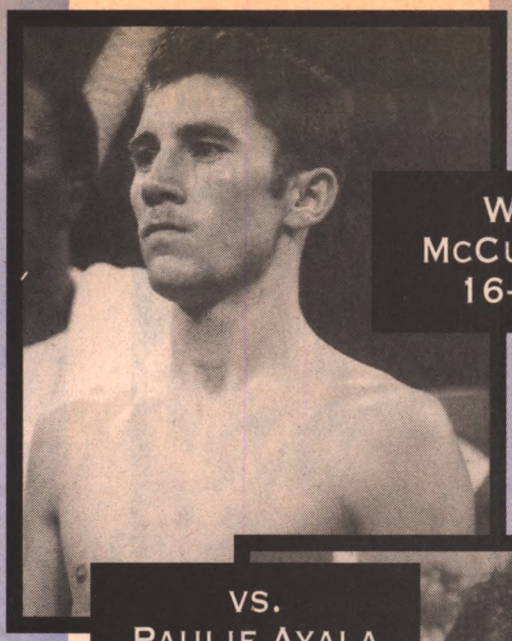
A Second Opinion: "Both guys can fight, so I think it'll go the distance, but Barrera is the better offensive fighter. He always comes to fight, and he's a good puncher. Barrera on points."

–Former WBA bantamweight champion Junior Jones

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Barrera vs. Vuyani Bungu. Not too many fans are familiar with South Africa's Bungu, who has reigned as IBF 122-pound champion since his upset of McKinney. He's a pressure fighter, and stylewise, he and Barrera should create an explosion.

Barrera trades with Frankie Toledo

Photo by Teddy Blackburn



WAYNE MCCULLOUGH
16-0 (12)

What Makes It So Hot: Like so many boxing matches, this would resemble a bullfight. Only there would be no matador, just a pair of bulls repeatedly charging into each other. Both McCullough and Ayala can box a bit, but each is better known for his intense work rate. Let the punches fly.

Chance Of Happening: 30%

McCullough Will Win If ... He mixes boxing and punching. In defeating Victor Rabanales, the Irishman showed the ability to adapt to his opponent's style. Against Ayala, his instinct will be to trade. That's where trainer Eddie Futch will make a difference.

Ayala Will Win If ... His left hook turns out to be a dominant weapon. If McCullough chooses to box and capitalize on his reach advantage, Ayala will swarm for all 12 rounds. He's one of the few banties who can match McCullough's stamina.

VS.
PAULIE AYALA
15-0 (6)

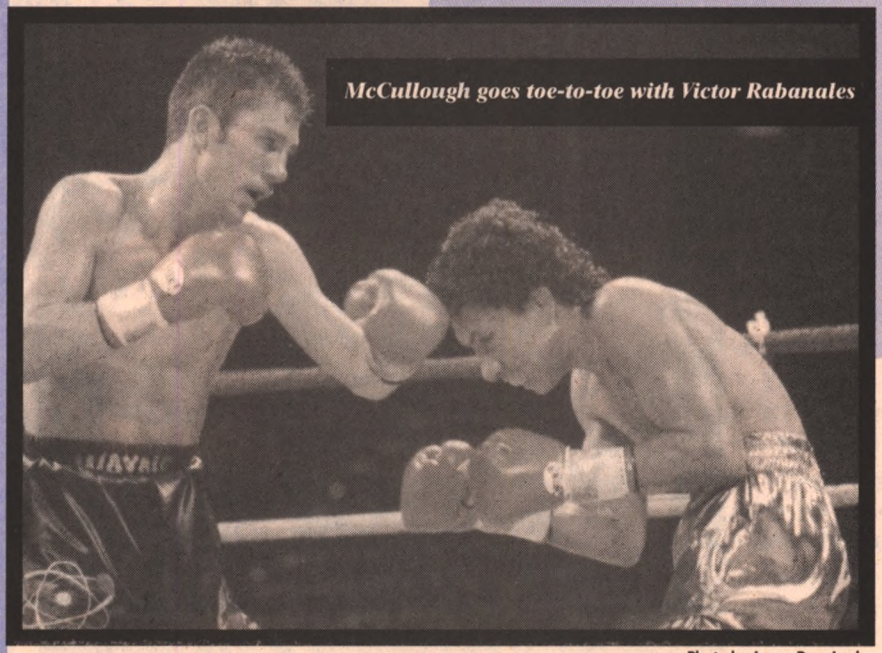
Intangibles: With heads inevitably clashing, will either fighter bust up? ... Will Ayala lack the power to capitalize on McCullough's suspect defense? ... With conditioning likely to be a key, will McCullough weaken himself in a struggle to make weight?

The Pick: McCullough by unanimous decision. Ayala may be an emerging star, but McCullough has faced the better competition, and he seems the more versatile fighter as well as the bigger puncher.

A Second Opinion: "McCullough on points. He hasn't impressed me that much, and I think Ayala is the smarter fighter, but Ayala might need a little bit more experience. There's no point putting him in over his head."

–Former WBA bantamweight champion John Michael Johnson

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Carlos Zarate-Alfonso Zamora. There aren't too many meaty matchups at 118 pounds these days, so how about bringing back the Z Boys for a 20-years-after-the-fact rematch?



McCullough goes toe-to-toe with Victor Rabanales

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

What Makes It So Hot: Civil pride. These fighters hail from opposite ends of Albuquerque, and the municipal matchup generates endless debate in every barber shop, supermarket, and tavern in town. Tapia says Romero is ducking him. Romero says he's hunting bigger game than Tapia. The styles should mesh—pressure fighter vs. puncher—and HBO is willing to fund the fight. So if newly crowned IBF flyweight champion Romero is willing to rise in weight …

Chance Of Happening: 80%

Tapia Will Win If … He fights a cerebral, and not an emotional, fight. The roles are clearly defined, and Tapia can't hope to match his crosstown rival punch-for-punch. As a result, he has to feature speed and movement, change angles, outjab Romero, and extend the bout into the championship rounds.

Romero Will Win If … He continues to develop into a complete fighter. In winning the 112-pound crown against Francisco Tejedor, the 20-year-old bomber proved he can box, too. If Romero can turn his jab into a dominant weapon, Tapia won't be able to get inside. And if forced into a defensive mode, Tapia won't win a single round.

Intangibles: Tapia-Romero will be fought before a huge crowd in Albuquerque. Will either fighter be overcome by the moment? … Will the intensity of the rivalry drive the emotional Tapia into a superhuman effort? … Given the difference in age (eight years), will the fight materialize a couple of years too late for the older Tapia?

The Pick: Romero by ninth-round stoppage. Gotta go with the fighter who's on the rise. Whether the end comes via cuts, three knockdowns, or referee's intervention, Romero will outfight the gutty Tapia and connect with enough powerpunches to slowly drain him of his energy. Be sure it'll be fun while it lasts.

A Second Opinion: "I've boxed with Tapia. Johnny has speed, he punches hard, he has everything. Romero is a big puncher, so I think this fight would end by knockout. Tapia by kayo."

–Junior bantamweight contender Cecilio Espino

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing … Tapia vs. Cecilio Espino. Tapia has looked vulnerable in recent efforts. Maybe a brawl with the easy-to-hit Espino is just what he needs.

Photo by Kim Jew

JOHNNY TAPIA
30-0-2 (18)

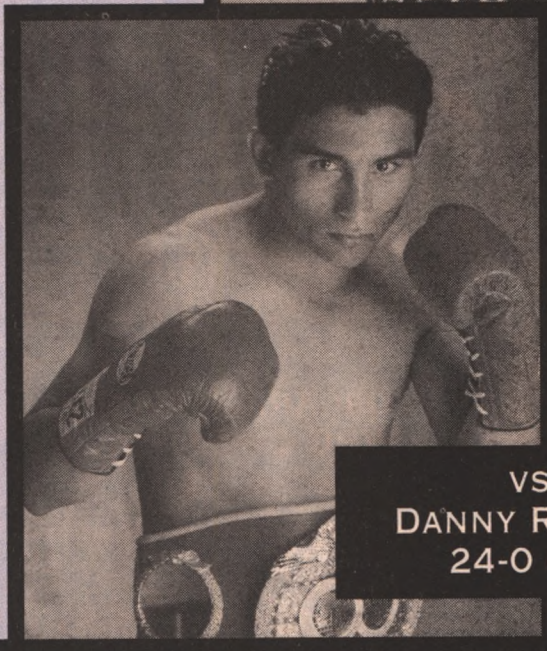
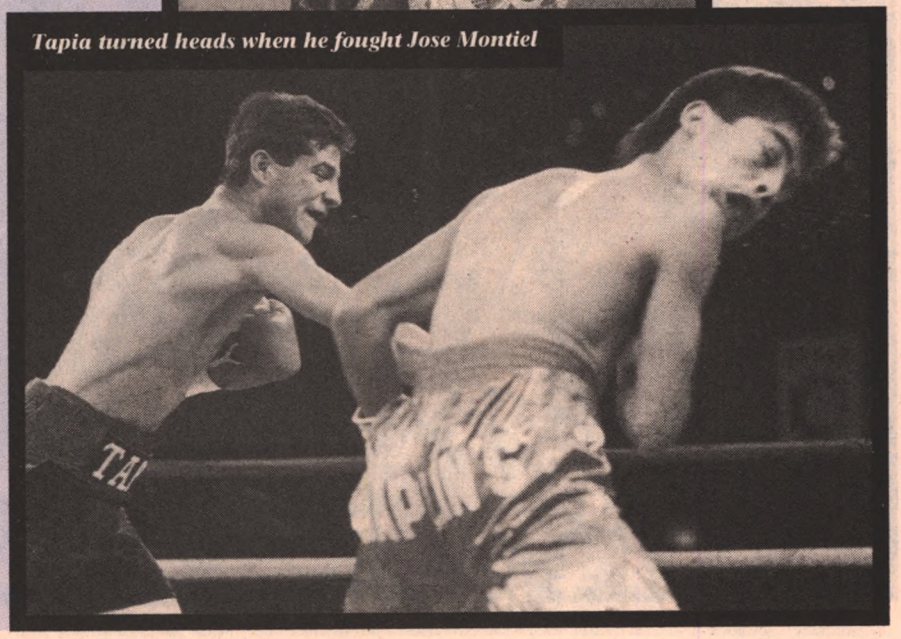


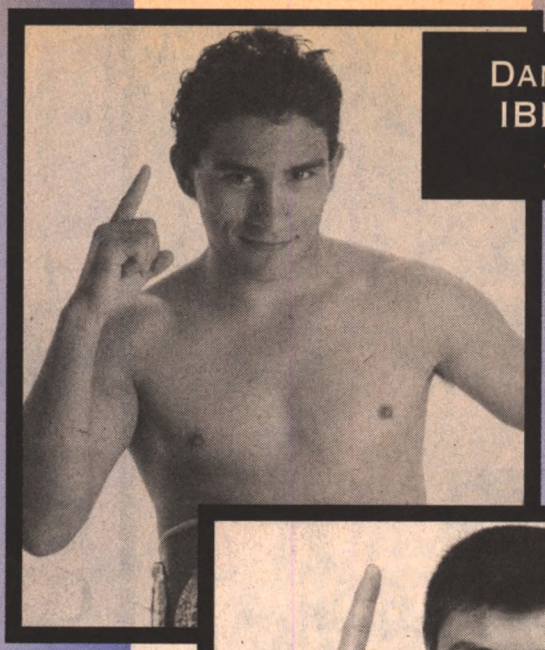
Photo by Kim Jew

VS.
DANNY ROMERO
24-0 (21)



Tapia turned heads when he fought Jose Montiel

FLYWEIGHTS



DANNY ROMERO
IBF CHAMPION
24-0 (21)

What Makes It So Hot: Who says the little guys can't punch? Romero and Arbachakov possess the dynamite to end any fight with a single blow. And with all respect to WBA champion San Sow Ploenchit, they're also the two best flys in the world. Somebody's 0 must go—and probably in violent fashion.

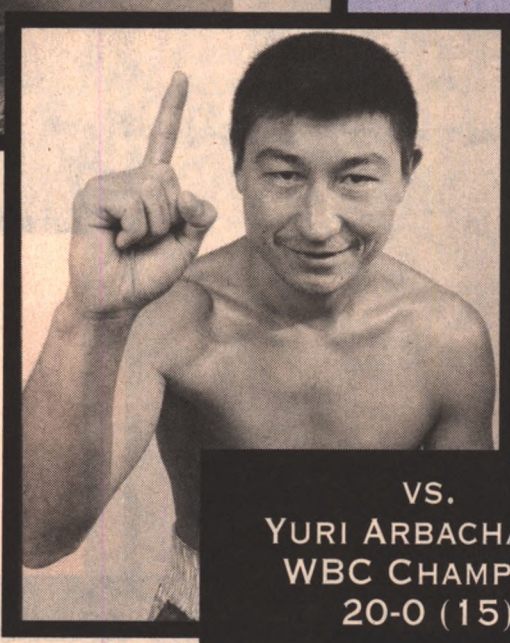
Chance Of Happening: 10%

Romero Will Win If ... His diverse skills and size advantage—he climbed through the ropes for his title-winning fight with Francisco Tejedor at 125 pounds—overwhelm the somewhat one-dimensional Russian. The most exciting thing about Romero is that we don't know how good he will be. Before he's done, don't be surprised if he's a triple-crown champion.

Arbachakov Will Win If ... His right hand proves more of a destructive weapon than anything Romero has in his arsenal. Arbachakov is the hardest-hitting fly in years. If he catches Romero on the chin, the American's various advantages, whether real or perceived, aren't going to mean squat.

Intangibles: Neither fighter is a road warrior. Will home country edge prove the deciding factor? ... Can Romero, who was recently fighting at bantamweight, again make 112 pounds without draining himself? ... Will the prospect of facing an opponent who hits at least as hard as he does force Arbachakov to alter his aggressive style?

The Pick: Romero by seventh-round kayo. Whether the fight lands in the USA or Arbachakov's home base of Japan, it's difficult to envision a distance fight. But it's easy to picture Romero having to rise from the canvas before finishing his foe.



VS.
YURI ARBACHAKOV
WBC CHAMPION
20-0 (15)

A Second Opinion: "If the fight was held in Japan, there would probably be a very controversial decision, with Arbachakov winning. But in the States, or at a neutral site, Romero would have a very good chance of winning by decision or even knockout. Arbachakov doesn't know how to fight Hispanic fighters who slip and slide and move in low. For instance, Yuri had a problem with me. Romero on points."

–Flyweight contender
Isaias Zamudio

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Romero vs. Mark Johnson. Stylewise, speed demon Johnson would prove far more difficult for Romero than Arbachakov. It's time for Johnson to secure a shot at a world title. How many sensational performances does he have to register before someone gives him a chance?

Romero proved too versatile for Francisco Tejedor

What Makes It So Hot: Lopez may be a pound-for-pound mainstay, but he defeats a world-class fighter outside the strawweight class, he'll finally secure universal respect or recognition. Chiquita, of course, is the king of this domain. The fact that these champions are both Mexican adds spice to an already appetizing matchup.

Chance Of Happening: 30%

Gonzalez Will Win If ... He reverts to the seek-and-destroy approach that marked his pre-Carbajal days. Chiquita will need to crowd Lopez and concentrate his attack on the body. In a classic and careful boxing match, he can do better than an even chance of winning. But if he flexes his muscles, he will come to realize that a significant difference in three pounds can be.

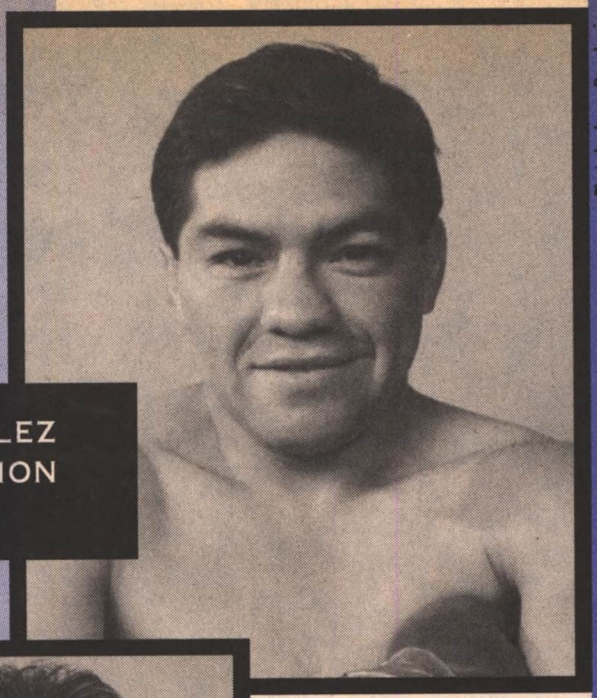


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
WBC-IBF CHAMPION
42-2 (29)

Lopez Will Win If ... He hits just hard enough to keep Gonzalez from walking through him. Though he will be the fighter rising in weight, Lopez will nevertheless possess the advantages in height and reach. He's slick enough to frustrate Chiquita, and dangerous enough to hurt him.

Intangibles: Will Lopez' fragile hands limit his offensive effectiveness? ... Has his kayo loss to Michael Carbajal forever changed Chiquita's style? Has Lopez' string of victories over mostly forgettable 105-pounders given him a false sense of his ability? ... Will Chiquita's suspect chin give out against Lopez' crisp and accurate counterpunches?

The Pick: Lopez on points. What's three pounds between countrymen? Lopez is a rarity, a fighter so good that inferior competition hasn't masked his talent. Chiquita may be the best 5'1" boxer you'll ever see, but move-for-move, Lopez is better.

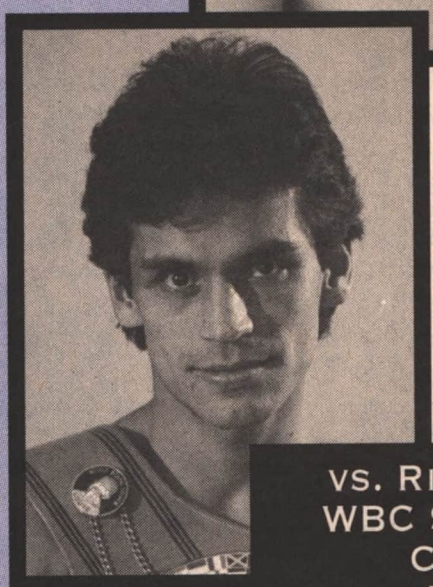


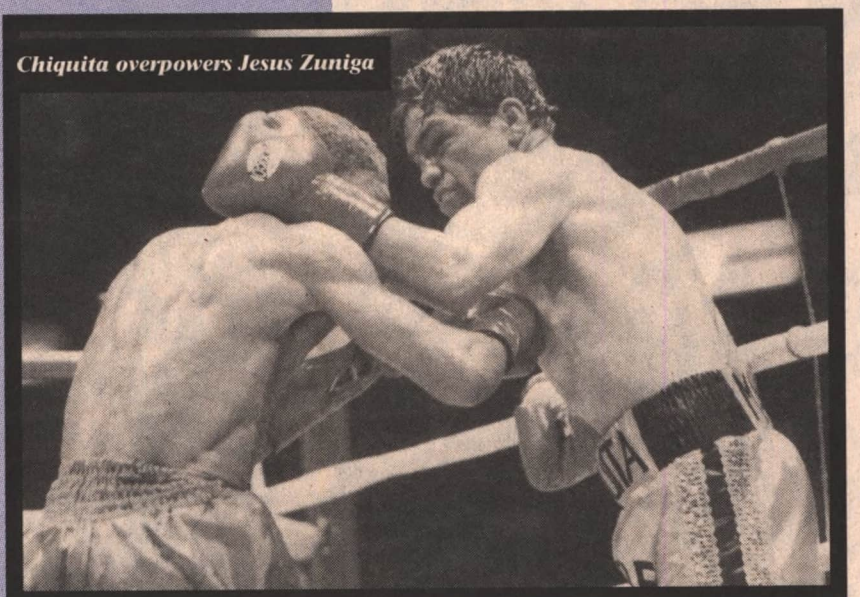
Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

VS. RICARDO LOPEZ
WBC STRAWWEIGHT
CHAMPION
40-0 (30)

A Second Opinion: "If Lopez can box, he'll make Gonzalez run. And if Lopez can bang and Gonzalez stands there and fights, Lopez should be able to win."

–Former WBC-IBF junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal

We Also Wouldn't Mind Seeing ... Lopez vs. Carbajal. Has 1993's Fighter of the Year disappeared off the face of the earth? Unfortunately, by the time Lopez moves up to junior flyweight, Carbajal will probably be fighting at flyweight. But since both fighters campaign under the promotional banner of Don King, a showdown is far more likely than Lopez-Gonzalez. ■



Chiquita overpowers Jesus Zuniga

Photo by Brent Cook

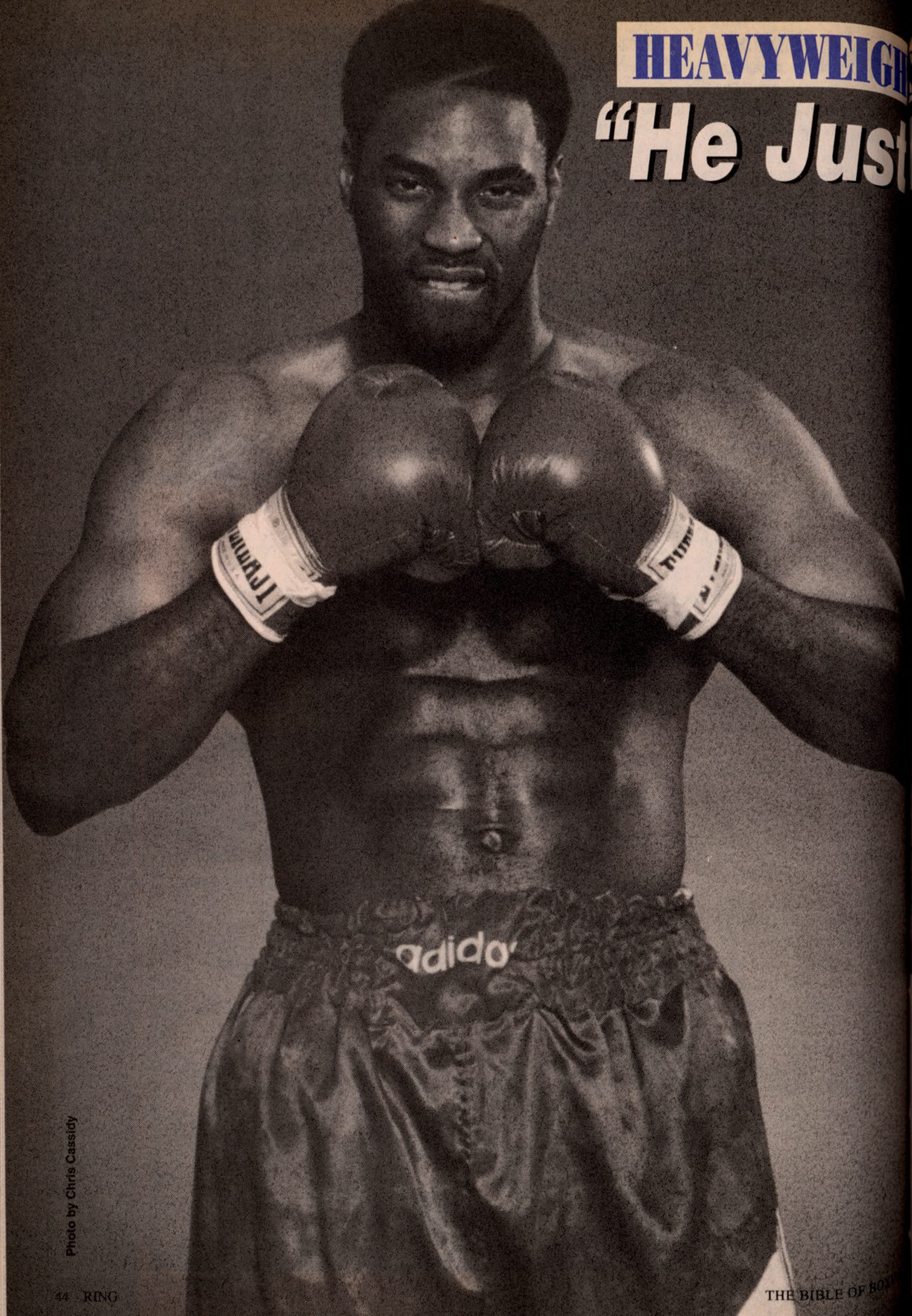


Photo by Chris Cassidy

HEAVYWEIGHT SENSATION JO-EL SCOTT

"He Just Walks Out And DESTROYS Guys"

By Steve Farhood

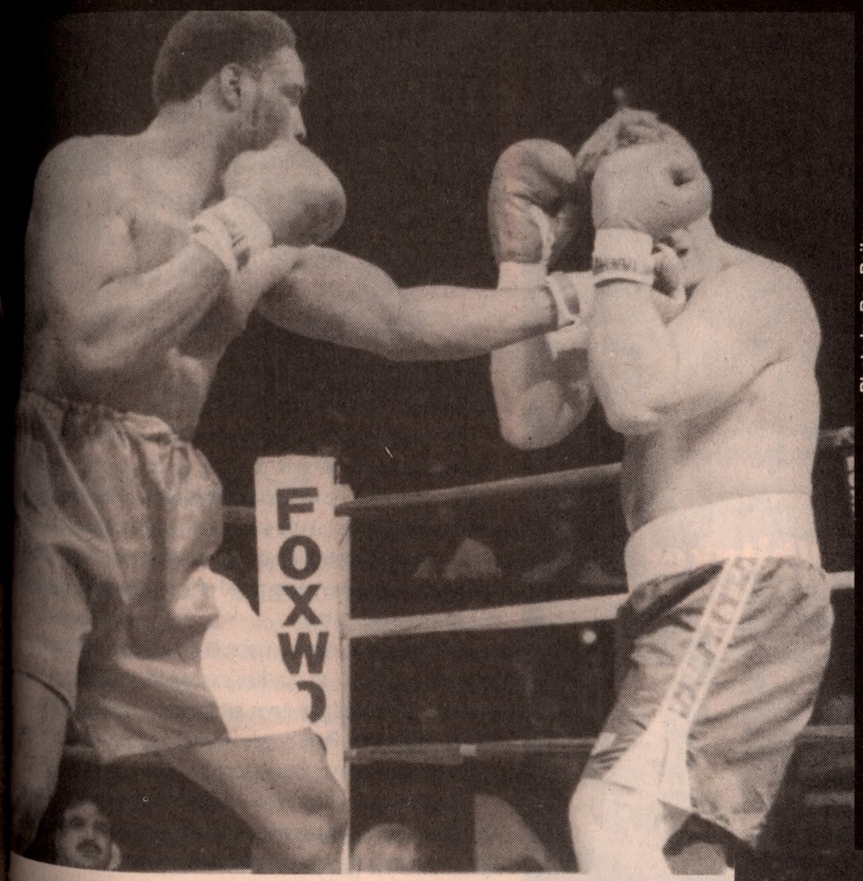


Photo by Ray Bailey

Scott set up victim number 11, Rick Sullivan (left), before knocking him out in the second round (below). The victory was particularly satisfying because Sullivan had beaten Scott in his first two amateur bouts.

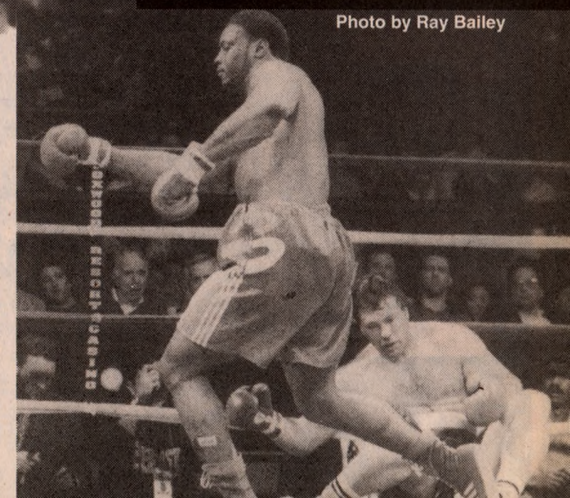


Photo by Ray Bailey

Seated in a coffee shop on Third Avenue in Manhattan, The Next Great Heavyweight apparently hasn't yet learned he's supposed to be different from the others. When one of his managers orders fried calamari for an appetizer, Jo-el Scott does the same—even though he doesn't know what it is. And when the lunchtime chatter turns to future matchups against the likes of Evander Holyfield and Michael Moorer, Scott cracks an uncomfortable smile, as if he's just learned that calamari is a fancy name for squid.

Asked if he feels special, Scott says no. Asked if he feels special *as a fighter*, he says no again. Is he at least excited by his potential? "Seeing is believing," answers Scott. "Somebody can tell me someone outside got hit by a car and I want to see it for myself."

If *hearing* is believing, The Next Great Heavyweight's head is likely to swell, and maybe even explode. Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz calls Scott "probably the hottest

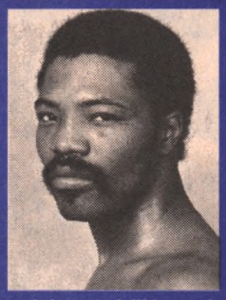
(Continued on page 73)

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Junior Welterweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, write to us.

Aaron Pryor

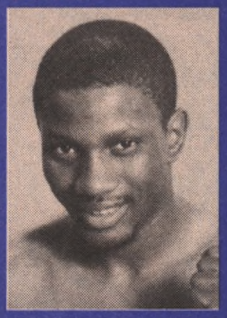


Cincinnati, Ohio
Career: 1976-1990
39-1 with 35 kayos

Given his self-destructive lifestyle, we'll never know how good Pryor could have been. Destined to suffer from burnout, "The Hawk" nonetheless left an indelible mark, reigning as WBA and IBF junior welterweight champion and establishing himself as a pound-for-pound mainstay during an era of unforgettable superstars.

Pryor was a high-energy fighter who never stopped throwing punches. Unable to secure a title fight at lightweight, he jumped to 140 pounds and rose from a first-round knockdown to dethrone legendary Colombian and WBA junior welterweight champion Antonio Cervantes in August 1980. He registered 10 successful defenses through March 1985. On the night he turned boxer and rejected the challenge of triple-crown champion Alexis Arguello in November 1982 (KO 14), he was arguably as good a fighter as the '80s had to offer. That memorable battle was named The Ring's Fight of the Decade.

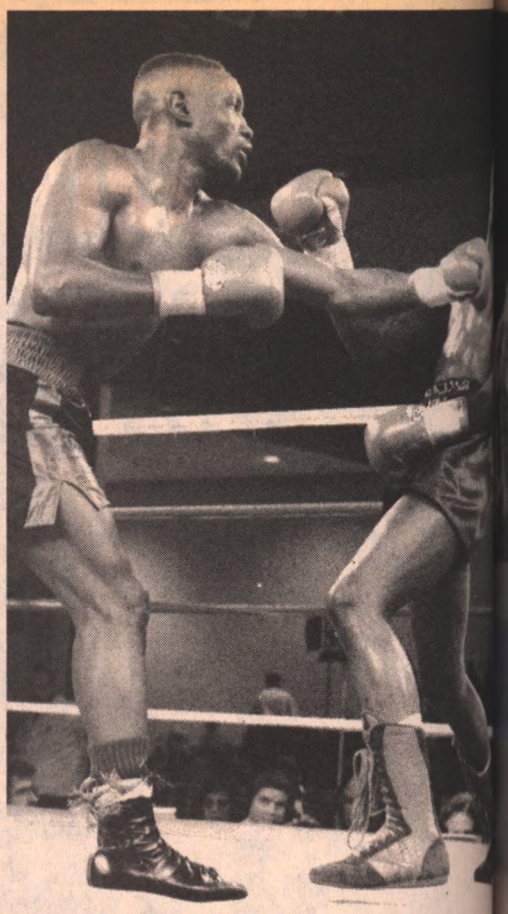
Pernell Whitaker



Norfolk, Virginia
Career: 1984-Present
35-1-1 with 15 kayos

Regarded as the best fighter in the world, Whitaker is a four-division champion who is forever seeking new challenges. A speedy counterpuncher, underrated bodypuncher, and defensive master, he is a southpaw version of Willie Pep. Ever since winning a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics, "Sweet Pea" has befuddled his opponents. His only loss, on points to Jose Luis Ramirez in March 1988, was among the worst decisions of the decade.

Whitaker won his first title in February 1988, easily decisioning Greg Haugen to capture the IBF lightweight title. He unified the crown by defeating Ramirez (W 12) and Juan Nazario (KO 1), then took the IBF junior welterweight title from Rafael Pineda (W 12), the WBC welterweight title from Buddy McGirt (W 12), and the WBA junior middleweight title from Julio Cesar Vasquez (W 12). In the biggest bout of his career, he was denied by the judges, who scored his one-sided welter defense against Julio Cesar Chavez a draw.



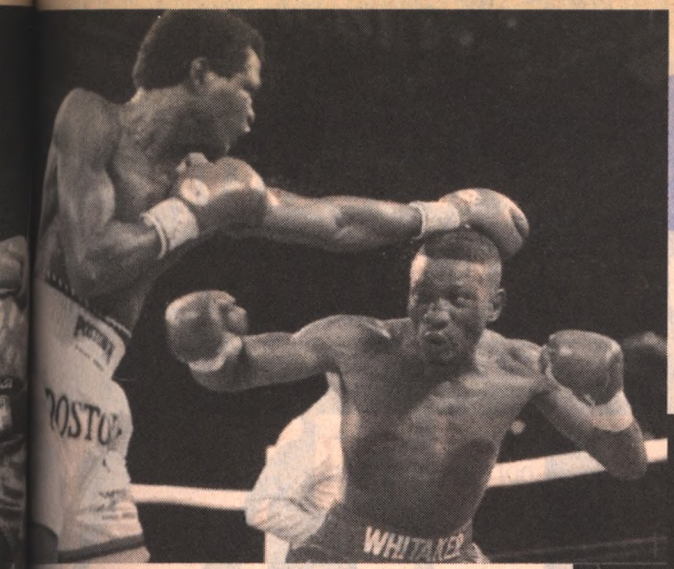
DAVE BONTEMPO

Pryor in his prime was the ultimate whirlwind fighter, with spe power, and an intangible sense of timing. He had the feeling he cou walk through a wall. He was buried in the shadow of Ray Leonard, a as a result he never came to the forefront on a sustained basis. His artis outside the ring hampered his upward mobility. But where Whitak could fight as a 9½ over a long period of time, Pryor had the ability t be a 10 for one fight or two.

Whitaker is a southpaw version of the ultimate speed machine. He's very difficult to hit, has exceptional balance, and a indomitable will. But you never get the impression his power ca change a fight. And Pryor's style is something he's never run into you can't compare Pryor to anyone he's fought.

The difference is that Pryor could hit harder. If he fought the fight of a lifetime—and he proved against Arguello he was capable of it—he'd walk through Whitaker and impose his will. Whitak would move in and out and try to discourage Pryor early in hopes of using his aggressiveness against him. Pryor would walk in, fire from all over the place, go to the body, try and keep Whitaker in front of him as much as possible, and fight on emotion. Whitaker has too much of a heart to get kayoed, so Pryor by decision.

Dave Bontempo is the boxing analyst on ESPN's Top Rank Boxing.



Whitaker slips the jab of powerpuncher Rafael Pineda. In 1992, "Sweet Pea" outslicked the Colombian over 12 rounds to win the IBF junior welterweight crown. It was his second of four world titles.

(Opposite) Fighting for the first time as a 140-pounder, Whitaker decisions perennial contender Harold Brazier in 1992. His stop at junior welterweight was a short one; he's campaigned at welterweight since March 1993.

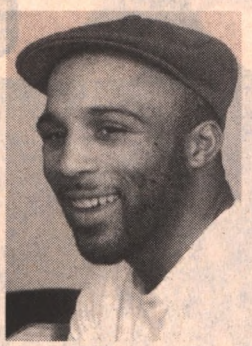
Pryor retains the WBA junior welterweight title for the seventh time by scoring a third-round kayo of former world titlist Sang Hyun Kim in 1983. "The Hawk" simply overwhelmed most of his opponents.

UDDY McGIRT

When I think about Pryor, I think back to about a year into my pro reer. I bought a brown T-shirt up in Great Gorge [New Jersey]. On the nt it said "What time is it?" and it had a big clock on it. On the back it said aron Pryor Training Camp." I wore it till the letters dropped off.

Pryor was constant pressure, constant energy. Everyone remembers him for fights with Arguello, but he was great against Dujuan Johnson, and he walked ough Antonio Cervantes. He didn't start sliding until his fight with Gary Hinton.

Whitaker is a good boxer, and he listened to [former trainer] Georgie nton well. When you fought him, it was like you were fighting Georgie. having Georgie will hurt him in the long run. Whitaker's quickness, vement, and anticipation make him so difficult to hit, but more than anyg else it's his southpaw style. There are very few slick southpaws. I'll tell this: He can't punch. The last time I fought him, he should've knocked out.



Pryor had too many guns for Whitaker, doesn't punch hard enough to stop You have to make Whitaker think by stantly punching. And Pryor was an errated boxer, too. You can hit Whitaker one shot, but not two or three, so I pick r by decision, not knockout.

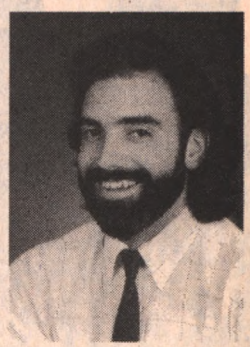
Buddy McGirt is a former junior welterweight and welterweight champion. He twice lost decisions to Whitaker.

JON SARACENO

This matchup would be the wild man vs. the wily man. Pryor has been compared to Henry Armstrong and Whitaker to Willie Pep, so it's sort of an Armstrong-Pep for the '80s. When you look at it, Pryor is a guy who knocked everyone out, and Whitaker knocks nobody out. From that perspective, it looks like a mismatch.

In his prime, Pryor was like a wind-up toy, but the kind you wouldn't allow your kids to play with. He'd come at you with punches from all angles, but sometimes a bit carelessly and recklessly. If he could rough Whitaker up, smother him, get him to the ropes, and take his legs, he'd win the fight.

Given Pryor's style, Whitaker could counter effectively, as long as he doesn't get sucked into a stupid fight. The key with all Whitaker fights, but even more so for this matchup, is that Whitaker would have to outsmart Pryor, and in certain spots outfight him, too. That, of course, would be the hard part. But Whitaker couldn't fight Pryor the way Arguello did. If he tried that, he'd get stopped much quicker than Arguello.



Whitaker has never faced anyone like Pryor, but Pryor never faced a southpaw as slick as Whitaker either. If Whitaker fights the fight he's capable of fighting, he could dodge bullets long enough to outbox the windmill and win on points.

Jon Saraceno is a boxing writer for USA Today.

The Hardest Question In The Hardest Game

WHEN SHOULD A FIGHT BE STOPPED?

By Ivan G. Goldman

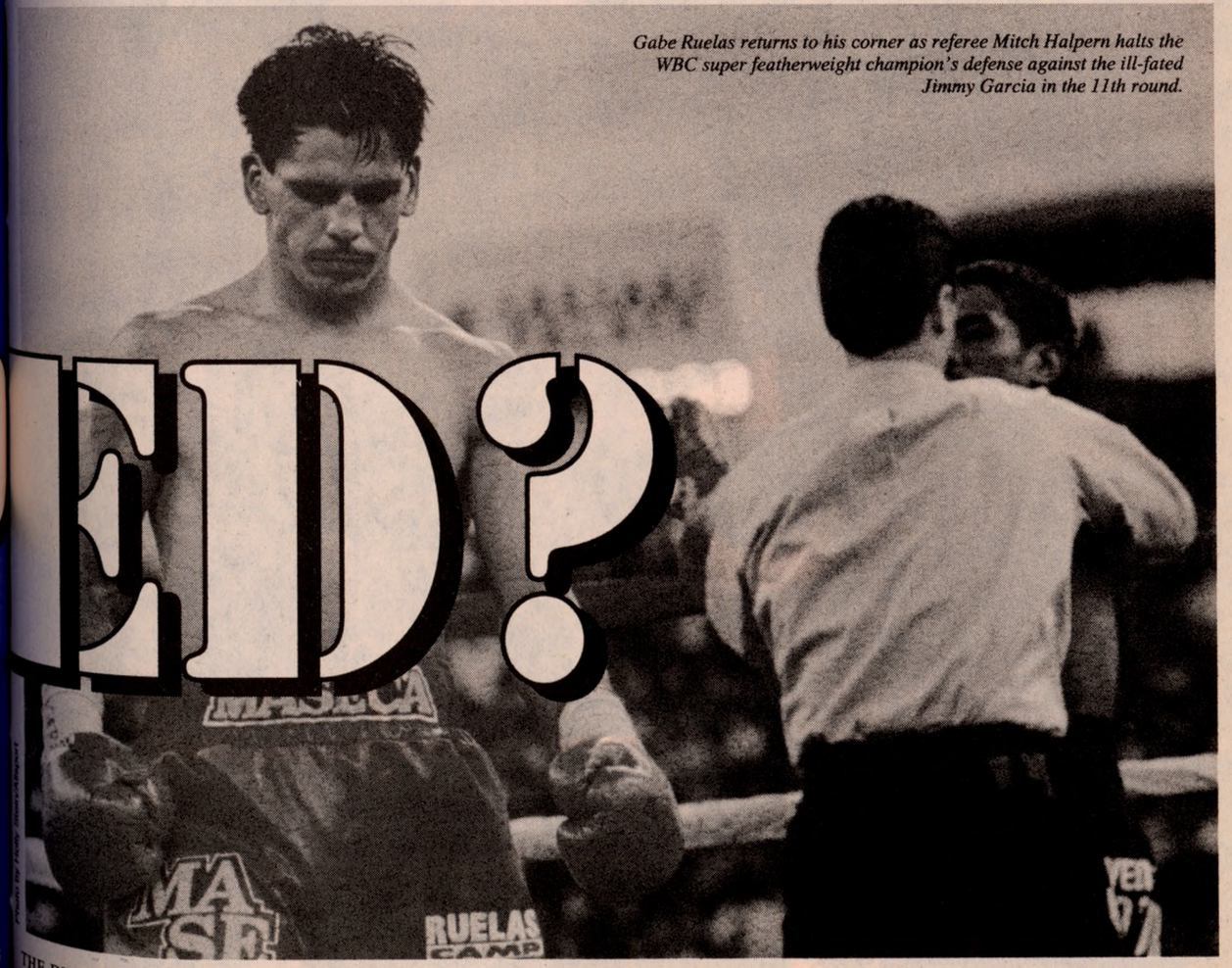
Lay on MacDuff. And damned be him that first cried "Hold, enough!"

–MacBeth to MacDuff, moments before MacDuff stabbed him, cut his head off, and displayed it to the fans

As MacBeth knew from the start, there are no rules in a knife fight. But we expect better in the ring. Nobody wants to see a serious injury or a fatality. Fighters are athletes, not gladiators. When the danger becomes too great, it's time to stop the contest. But how do we know when the danger is too great?

In the aftermath of two recent ring tragedies—the Las Vegas death of Jimmy Garcia and the serious brain injury suffered by Gerald McClellan in London—it's time we looked closely at the question: At what point should we stop a fight?

The rules say a fight should be stopped when one of the contestants isn't defending himself. Of course, the rules differ from state to state and commission to commission. But the intent is always the same: The referee is supposed to find that magic moment before seri-



Gabe Ruelas returns to his corner as referee Mitch Halpern halts the WBC super featherweight champion's defense against the ill-fated Jimmy Garcia in the 11th round.

ous injury occurs, and after the losing fighter no longer has a chance to win.

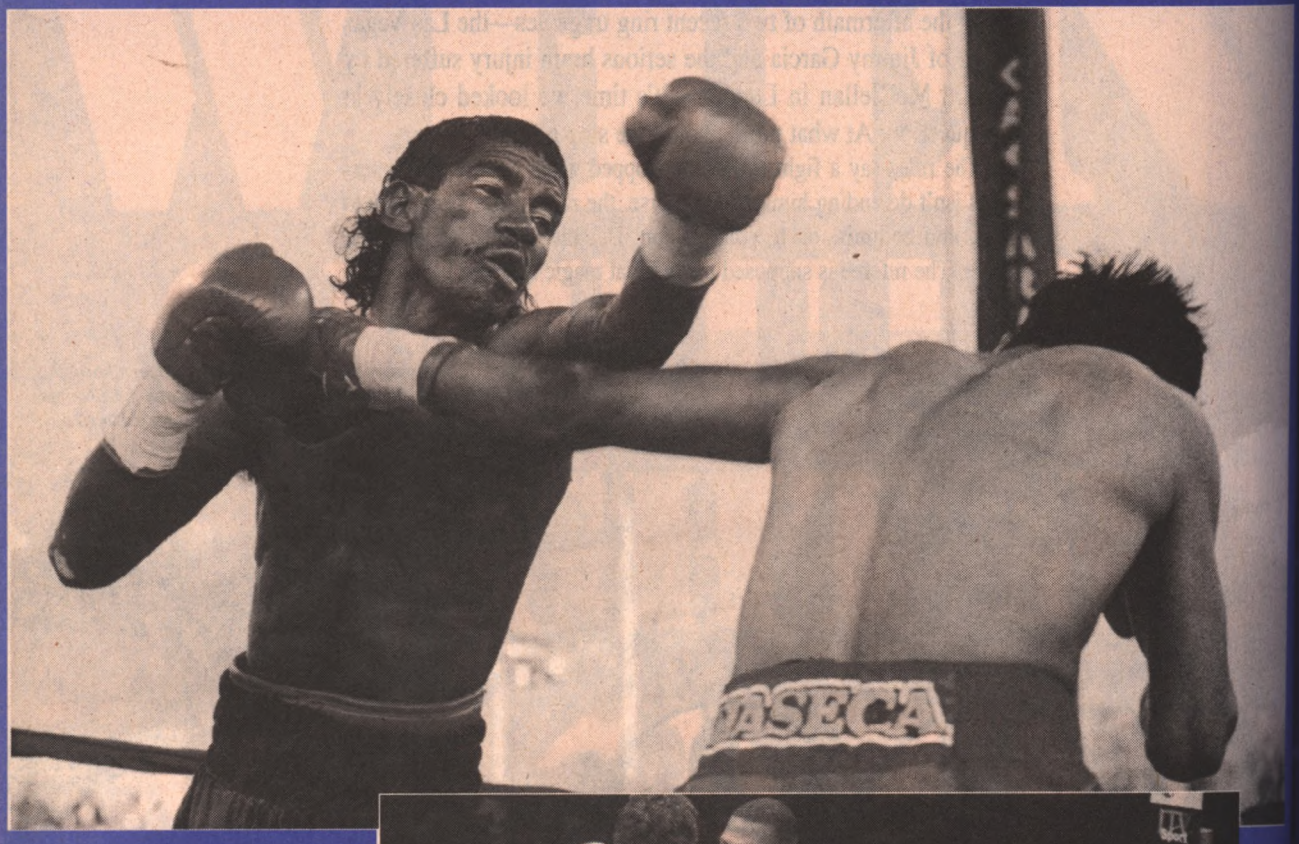
"If we knew the exact answer, it would be utopia," says California referee Marty Denkin. "But I can tell you that a class referee has a sixth sense. It's like a jockey when he does just little things to move his horse the way he wants."

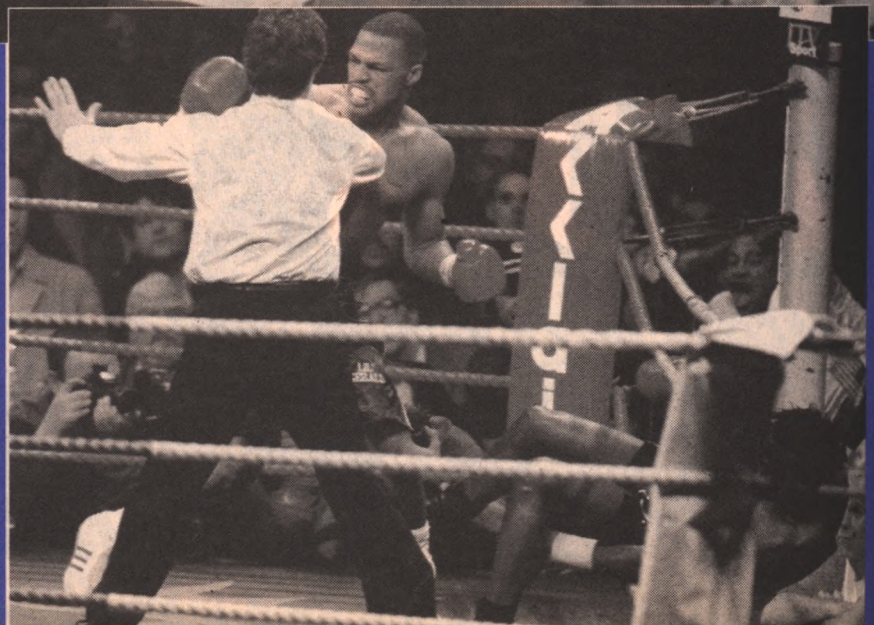
Clearly, in the heat of battle, rules don't always do the job. So, yes, common sense, or what Denkin calls a sixth sense, may have to take over. It's worth noting that Denkin, a well-regarded referee, was himself the third man when Johnny Owen died as a result of injuries suffered in his 1980 title fight with Lupe Pintor in Los Angeles.

Then there's Richard Steele, another referee who is recognized as having great command of his craft. Steele will forever be remembered as the referee who put a stop to the first Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor bout at the 2:58 mark of the last round. Steele intervened even with Taylor on his feet, and even though Chavez, who hadn't been standing in a neutral corner, could never have reached his opponent, much less laid another glove on him, in the remaining time. Steele still gets booed over that one.

There is your classic conundrum: Step in inappropriately and you get the Chavez-Taylor result. Step in too late and you

Game but sadly outclassed, Garcia soaked up Ruelas' punches from start to finish. What the Colombian had done to earn his second try at a world title is anybody's guess.





Unlike Ruelas-Garcia, the tragic Nigel Benn-Gerald McClellan title fight was competitive throughout. McClellan, who was stopped in the 10th round, floored and almost finished Benn in the first.

In January, the light heavyweight fight between Merqui Sosa and Prince Charles Williams was stopped by New Jersey ringside physician Dr. Frank B. Doggett because both *fighters were absorbing too much punishment. The bout was ruled a technical draw.*

If any referee understands how difficult it is to time the stoppage of a fight, it's Nevada's Richard Steele. Considered one of the best third men in boxing, he was heavily criticized for his intervention in Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor I and Mike Tyson-Razor Ruddock I.

ld wind up with a tragedy like
mbia's Garcia, who died at age 23.
Where McClellan's battle with Nigel
n was a vicious, two-sided war, Garcia
rbed a classic beating at the hands of
ending WBC super featherweight cham-
n Gabe Ruelas. Of the two bouts, Ruelas-Garcia poses less guesswork. Most experts agree McClellan's bout against Nigel Benn was a much tougher call.

"Garcia's fight against Ruelas was noncompetitive shortly after the National Anthem," observed Dr. Robert Karns, chairman of the physicians' advisory board for the California State Athletic Commission. "One rule we have in California, which not everybody has, is the noncompetitive rule. The referee can stop the fight when he feels it's no longer competitive. It's a good rule.

(Continued on page 68)

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

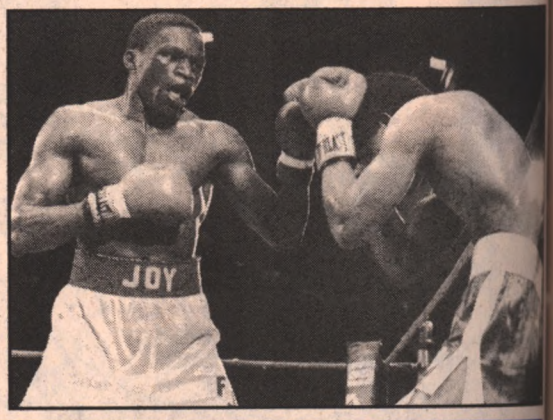
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: SUGAR RAY LEONARD'S OPPONENTS

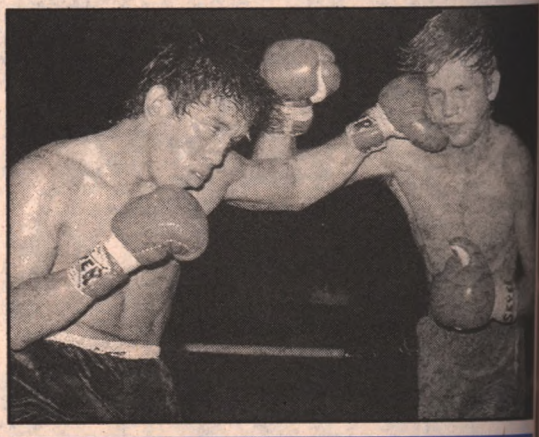
1

Don't let the trunks fool you. This fighter, shown kayoing welter contender Jose Baret, isn't named Joy. He's from a family of fighters, and he lasted 10 rounds with Sugar Ray.



2

Don't let the photo fool you. The fighter on the right was an outstanding defensive fighter. A perennial contender, he took Leonard the distance in 1978.



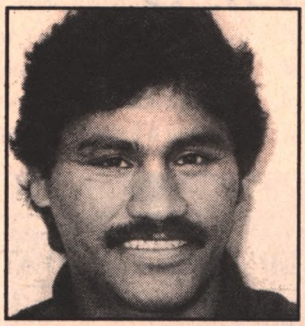
3

Don't let the mustache fool you. This hard-luck contender was better known without one. By the time he fought Sugar Ray, he was well past his prime.

YOUR BOXING IQ

4

n't let the smile fool you. This rugged ddleweight hit Leonard so hard, Sugar y said he saw triple. Against Thomas rns, however, he lasted less than one nd.



5

Don't let the baleful stare fool you. If this guy was so tough, how come he lasted only three rounds with Sugar Ray?

6

n't let the cherubic face fool you. This thpaw was among the toughest and hest contenders of his era. (And so was brother.) He lost to Sugar Ray on ts in 1979.

7

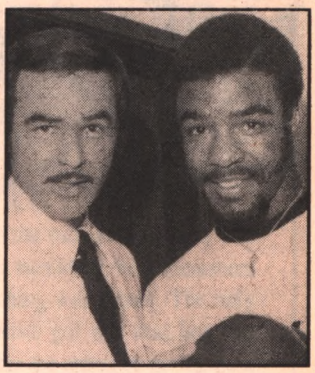
Don't let the old-man look fool you. This middleweight was one of the toughest fighters of his era—until he fought Leonard. Sugar Ray registered the first knockdown of the Canadian's 47-bout career and stopped him in the eighth.

8

't let the boyish looks fool you. This ger from the other side of the pond almost all of his fights by kayo. But ar Ray landed first, and out went the

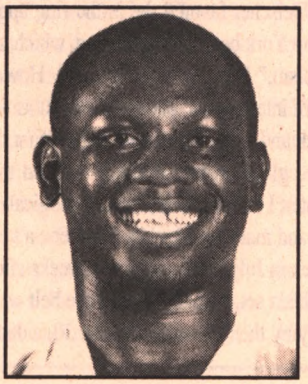
9

Don't let the pairing fool you. Only one of these guys fought Leonard, and it wasn't Burt Reynolds. But the actor did briefly co-manage this fighter, Sugar Ray's 25th consecutive victim.



10

't let the gap-toothed grin fool you. Philadelphia toughie wasn't very ly when he faced Leonard. In fact, nvinced Sugar Ray to re-retire.



ANSWERS:

1) Floyd Mayweather
2) Randy Shields
3) Armando Muniz
4) Marcos Geraldo
5) Bruce Finch
6) Adolpho Viruet
7) Fernand Marcotte
8) Dave Boy Green
9) Andy Price
10) Kevin Howard

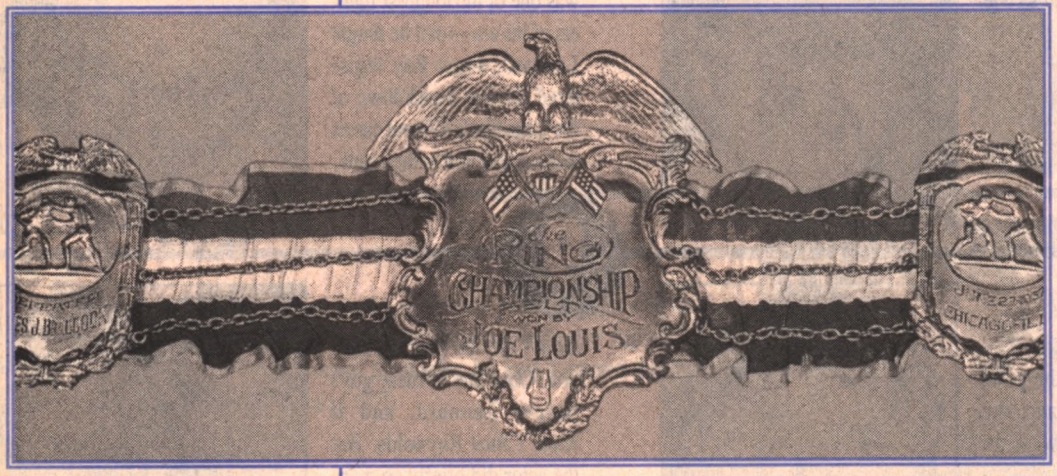
By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

AN OLD FRIEND SOLD AT AUCTION

(August 30, 1937; March 19, 1995)

The swell of boos and hissing catcalls from the angry crowd caused Joe Louis a lot more pain than did Tommy Farr's punches after their just-ended 15-rounder under a rain-threatening sky at New York's Yankee Stadium. Fight crowds have always reacted that way when an overwhelming underdog never hits the deck, never backs up, never stops churning away, and spits out his mouthpiece because there's less pain than when he tries to hold it in place. It makes no difference that the favorite deserved the decision. Fight fans are a sentimental breed who reward courageous losers. And there was never a more courageous loser than Farr, whose fearless resistance and iron jaw turned what was supposed to be a very special night for Louis into an embarrassing experience Joe never got over.



Nine weeks after Joe knocked out Jimmy Braddock to become the youngest heavyweight champion in history, he would make his first defense, against Farr. And when that fight was over, right there in the ring, Joe was to receive boxing's most illustrious award, THE RING magazine championship belt. But there is more to the story ...

Never before had a RING belt been presented immediately after a bout, and there was considerable debate among the staff whether or not to break tradition. THE RING's staff consisted of Founder, Editor, and Publisher Nat Fleischer, board member and journalist Dan Daniel, radio announcer Sam Taub, and reporter Eddie Borden. As an 18-year-old office boy and fledgling writer at my first job, I was privileged to sit in on staff meetings and even allowed to express my opinions. Fleischer favored the in-the-ring approach, assuming he would personally make the presentation. But when the New York boxing commission, which approved the idea, rejected Fleischer's participation as "excessive commercialism," Nat changed his mind. However, Daniel convinced him to swallow his pride and not sacrifice the wealth of international publicity THE RING would surely get from an in-ring presentation. As Fleischer and Daniel went back and forth, I spoke up for the first time: "Suppose Louis loses? Would that hurt us?" They all seemed stunned and glared at me, as if I had raised the impossible. I was sorry I had opened my mouth. But to this day, 58 years later, I still think I had asked a logical question.

All RING belts were designed and made by Lambert Brothers, a trendy Fifth Avenue jeweler. The order for the Louis belt was placed the first week in July 1937, about two weeks after Joe became champion. Although the exact date of the Farr fight had not yet been set, delivery date of the belt was to be in mid-August. But when August 20 came and went, and with fight day by then firmed at August 30, a disturbed Fleischer called Lambert Brothers for

an explanation. "We're having internal problems," Nat was told. "Don't worry. You'll have the belt before the 30th."

Fleischer placed followup calls at least once a day, every day, right up to the afternoon of the 28th. Panic had set in. Finally, a message from Lambert: "Pick up the belt at our office after five o'clock on the 29th." But the 29th was a Sunday. And the fight was on Monday. Fleischer asked me to pick up the belt.

Late Sunday morning, I rode the Long Island Railroad from Long Beach, where I lived with my parents, to New York City. I walked the 20 blocks, deserted on Sundays, from Penn Station to Lambert's shop on 54th Street. I got there at about 3:30 in the afternoon, but they didn't give me the silver, kidney-shaped box until four hours later. I tucked it under my arm and hustled back to Penn Station, just catching the 9:12 train back to Long Beach. It wasn't until long after I had settled into my seat that I realized I was in such a rush to get home, I hadn't even looked at the belt. Now I worried if the belt was even in that silver box. I glanced around. The coach was about half-filled, but the seats around me were all occupied.

I slowly unhooked the latches on either end of the box and carefully raised the lid. There it rested, on a nest of purple velvet. Polished to a dazzling luster, the three gold-plated panels, chained together, beautifully contrasted against a belt of gold-trimmed red, white, and blue satin. Under the large spread-winged eagle atop the center panel was a pair of enamel American flags above the inscription "THE RING Championship Belt ... Won By Joe Louis." The two smaller panels, one on each side, also bore spread-winged eagles, above two boxers squaring. The inscription under the left panel read, "Defeated James J. Braddock." The right panel inscription read, "June 22, 1937, Chicago, Ill."

Instantly, I was surrounded by popeyed fellow passengers edging toward me for a closer look at the treasure. Word somehow spread to other coaches, and soon a dense mob was clawing at my sleeves, clutching hands edging perilously closer to the silver box. I slammed the lid shut and engaged the side latches. Clutching my precious cargo, I raced for the exit platform. Luckily, it was only a few minutes before the train pulled into Long Beach station and safety.

The next morning, Monday, August 30, 1937, the day Louis would defend against Farr, I was back on the railroad, headed in the opposite direction, toward New York City. I had the silver box with its precious contents under my arm, but this time it was wrapped in brown paper and tied securely, to remain sealed until it arrived at THE RING's offices at Madison Square Garden. The staff anxiously gathered around as I removed the wrapping and gently opened the box. Fleischer lifted the glistening belt from its velvet bed and proudly spread it across his chest as everybody watched in awe. "Beautiful." "Magnificent." "Really fit for a king." You would have thought they were looking at England's crown jewels.

At about 6:30 that evening, Fleischer, Daniel, and I took a taxi from the Garden for the half-hour, uptown trip to Yankee Stadium, the silver box resting on Fleischer's lap all the way. Because Nat and Daniel would be sitting behind cluttered press desks near the ring apron, neither could comfortably—or safely—protect the belt before its presentation. So the plan was for me to guard it with my life while sitting in my 22nd row "ringside" seat, between Mrs. Fleischer and a family friend, actor Charles Webster. As soon as the main event was over (Fleischer estimated Louis by knockout in five rounds; Daniel saw Louis in three; I predicted Farr would not survive the eighth), I would immediately head for ringside to my boss and hand him the silver box. Then I would "get lost."

When ring announcer Harry Balough presented the championship belt to Joe Louis, Yankee Stadium rocked with angry boos and cries of "You're giving it to the wrong guy!" Opposite: The famous Joe Louis belt, recently sold at auction for a near-record price.

All of us wanted to get lost that night. Never before, or since, has any award—Academy, Emmy, Tony, or RING—been presented under more hostile, untimely, and embarrassing circumstances as that award to Louis. The real hero of the evening was the incredibly brave and durable Welshman, Thomas Farr. You could hear the grunts all over: "They're giving the belt to the wrong guy." Louis, purple lumps under both eyes, lips puffed, nose swollen, appeared most embarrassed of all as he stood in center ring, encased in his blue satin robe, head bowed, listening to ring announcer Harry Balough bellowing tributes, some of which Harry himself created specially for the occasion, before handing Joe his belt.

Our plan was for Joe to wear the belt so pictures would be flashed around the world. But Louis immediately passed the belt to manager Julian Black and then left the ring. Luckily, a few quick shots were taken in the few seconds the champion had held the belt in his hands. But no newspapers carried the picture, and only one reporter even mentioned the presentation. The whole thing was a bust. The only break THE RING got was that fate had saved Fleischer the ordeal of having been in that ring.

After almost 60 years, the sad saga of Louis' RING belt had dimmed in my mind. But in the spring of 1995, when I learned that Joe's belt would be auctioned to the highest bidder by prestigious Superior Galleries in Beverly Hills, California, every detail snapped back into sharp focus. You have to remember that the last time I had seen that belt was when Louis had held it in his hands those few seconds in the ring at Yankee Stadium. To me, it was like finding a long-lost friend.

I've been told the winning bidder paid about $75,000, but I'm not sure. I am sure, however, what THE RING paid to make the belt back in 1937: a hefty $275, not including tax. How do I know? Because Lambert had insisted on being paid cash on delivery.

The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, THE RING was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, THE RING was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of THE RING were already talking about them. THE RING covered all the boxing events of the 1960s and 1979s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

July 1964: Will Bobo Olson Win Title? Plus: Polo Grounds, Cassius Clay, Willie Pastrano, Sugar Ramos.

Aug. 1964: Who Is Floyd Robertson? Plus: Max Schmeling, Griffith-Rodriguez, Dick Tiger, Olympic preview, Joey Giardello, Sonny Liston.

Sept. 1964: The Perils Of Patterson! Plus: Cleveland Williams, Laszlo Papp, Jose Stable, Carlos Ortiz.

Feb. 1965: Where Do Our Heavies Stand Now? Plus: James J. Braddock, Emile Griffith, Jose Torres, Willie Pastrano, Oscar Bonavena, Eder Jofre.

July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

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Aug. 1970: Robinson, Saldivar Only Two To Do It. Plus: Cassius Clay, Benvenuti-Bethea, Jose Ibar Urtain, Leotis Martin, David Vasquez, Bugner-London.

Feb. 1972: Will Tax Bite KO Foreign Invasion? Plus: Clay-Mathis, Quarry-Bodell, Mando Ramos, Ruben Olivares, Foreman-Pires, Foster-Hicks.

May 1972: The Time Has Come, Says Foreman. Plus: Joe Frazier, Patterson-Bonavena, Bennie Briscoe, Duane Bobick, Peter Jackson.

Aug. 1972: Joe Frazier: "Clay's Jab Gone, I'll KO Him." Plus: Frazier-Stander, Quarry-Middleton, Eddie Perkins, Ben Villaflor, Esteban DeJesus.

Oct. 1972: Fleischer Exclusive: All-Time Choices (96-page collector's issue): Plus: Clay-Lewis, Patterson-Agosto, Bold Bendigo, Tony Licata, controversial punches, Jose Luis Garcia.

Nov. 1972: How Good Is Lightweight Champ Roberto Duran? Plus: George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Duran-Buchanan, Monzon-Bogs, Rocky Graziano, Dempsey-Firpo.

July 1973: Has Time Come For Ali To Quit? Plus: Ken Norton, George Foreman, Bruno Arcari, Danny Lopez, Jimmy Richards, Henry Cooper, Antonio Cervantes, Bobby Chacon.

Sept. 1973: Ali's Revenge? Muhammad Ali vs. Ken Norton—The Battle Of Broken Jaw. Plus: Frazier-Bugner, Shavers-Ellis, Chacon-Olivares, Terrell-Wepner, Monzon-Griffith.

June 1974: Foreman Supreme After Second-Round KO Over Norton. Plus: Duran-DeJesus, Obed Aims, Bat Battalino, Johnny & Tony Mareno, Pedro Agosto, Olivares-Hafey.

Nov.-Dec. 1974: Where Do We Go From Zaire? Plus: Bob Foster, Napoles-Lewis, Angel Mayoral, new faces, Sam Taub, Lopez-Toyoshima.

Nov. 1975: George Foreman: Forgotten World Heavyweight Champ. Plus: Roberto Duran, Ken Buchanan, Alfredo Escalera, Teddy Brenner, Ken Buchanan, U.S. title

Dec. 1975: Inside Story! Ali-Frazier Super Fite III. Plus: Kotey-Olivares, Escalera-Hernandez, Lyle-Shavers, Briscoe-Gregory, Ray Robinson, Jack Schmeling.

Jan. 1976: Foreman Next For Ali? Plus: Ken Norton, Arguello-Kobayashi, Johnson-Dunn, Duran-Viruet, Jose Napoles, Lou Nova.

Feb. 1976: Today's Champs-Rated Pound For Pound. Plus: Madison Square Garden, Briscoe-Hart, Ray Lampkin, Dempsey-Gibbons, Antonio Cervantes, George Carpentier.

Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Who's To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Nov. 1977: Monzon Retires. Plus: Next middleweight king?, Arguello-Fernandez, Benitez-Guerrero, Mattioli-Dagge, Palacios-Muniz.

Nov. 1978: Fifteen Top Heavyweights: Which Have A Chance At Crown? Plus: Bob Arum, Mickey Walker, Hagler-Briscoe, Fernandez-Arguello, Vorasingh, Estaba.

Feb. 1979: Larry Holmes Power Evangelista: Plus: Joe Louis, Carlos Valdez, Gomez-Zarate, Francisco Lopez, Leonard-Prada, Hagler-Warren, Joey Olivo, Gene Tunney.

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Matthew Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 more heavyweights, Monzon comeback, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ramos, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

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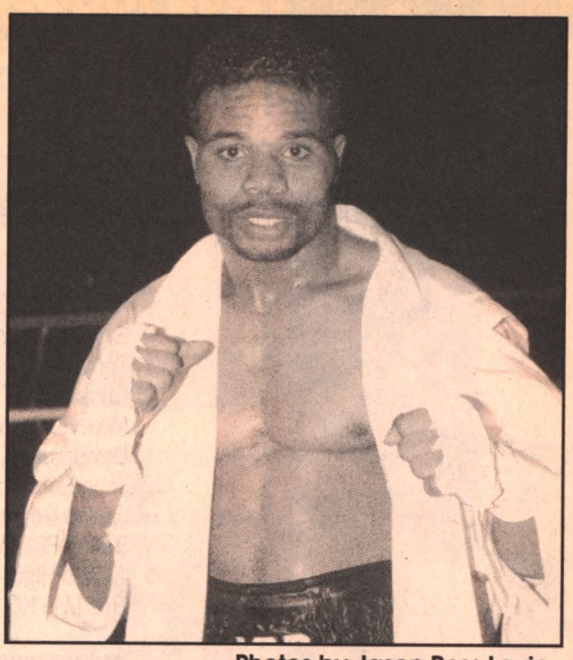


Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

WILLIAM JOPPY

Middleweight

By John Scheinman

William Joppy loves to watch tapes of Sugar Ray Leonard. He breaks into a grin at the mention of Sugar Ray's one-round blitz of Andy Price, a brilliant early-career Leonard fight few young boxers have had the privilege to see.

But for the undefeated 24-year-old middleweight from Takoma Park, Maryland, the Leonard connection doesn't stop at the VCR; Joppy trains at the Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Center in Palmer Park, Maryland, a hardscrabble suburb of Washington, D.C., where Leonard grew up and the legend began. He's also teamed with renowned trainer Jose "Pepe" Correa, who joined Leonard's camp before the epic confrontation with Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

And if the undefeated Joppy has his way, the link with Leonard will solidify when he becomes middleweight champion of the world.

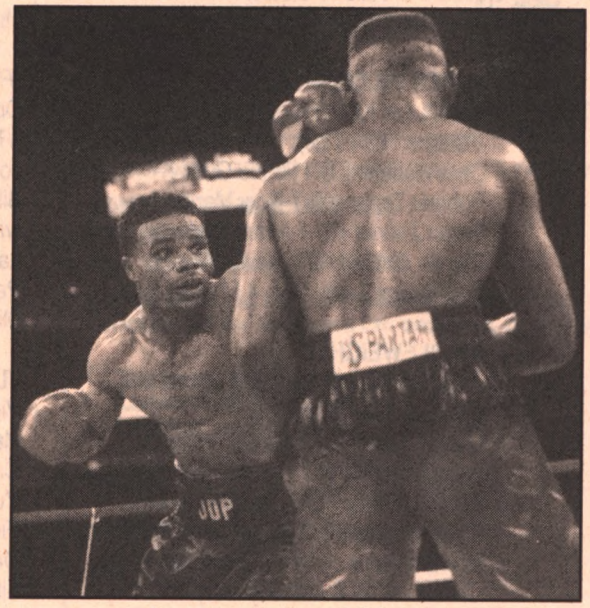
"I think he will be champion very shortly," Correa says matter-of-factly. "Here's the key: boxing ability. This little boy can box, and he can punch."

Although he didn't grow up around the sport, Joppy always knew boxing was his future.

"I was playing football, basketball, baseball, but it was always in my mind to box," he said. "As I got older, I said, 'I'm going to do this.' But I had to get serious."

Joppy came from a broken home in Rockville, Maryland, and as a boy he shuttled from his mother's house to his father's to his grandmother's. His father, he said, was tougher on him than on his older sister or younger brother, and that helped

(Continued on page 80)



Joppy guns for Joaquin Velasquez

PRO RECORD

19	Dwayne Tennet, Camp Hill, PA	W 4
18	Ken Ruffin, Woodbridge, VA	KO 1
17	Shane Martin, Baltimore	KO 3
16	Tim Tisdale, Woodbridge	KO 1
15	George Taylor, Landover, MD	KO 3
14	Ivory Teague, Landover	KO 2
13	Tyrone Haywood, Washington, D.C.	KO 2
12	Willie Taylor, Upper Marlboro, MD	KO 3
11	Robert Harris, Upper Marlboro	KO 1
10	Tony McCrimmion, Atlantic City	KO 2
9	Ken Parker, Upper Marlboro	KO 2
8	Muhammad Shabazz, Richmond, VA	KO 5
7	Carl Sullivan, Upper Marlboro	KO 4
6	Carlos Christie, Southwark, England	W 6
5	Miguel Hernandez, Las Vegas	KO 3
4	Richard Evans, Atlantic City	W 8
3	Tony Cartrell, Washington, D.C.	KO 2
2	Tony McCrimmion, Ft. Lauderdale	KO 3
1	Joaquin Velasquez, Landover	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
19	19	0	0	15

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Evander Holyfield W 10 Ray Mercer
Tommy Morrison KO 6 Razor Ruddock
Chris Byrd W 10 Arthur Williams
Mike Hunter W 10 Will Hinton
David Tua KO 5 Dan Murphy
John Ruiz KO 4 Michael Murray
James Gaines KO 5 Martin Foster
Boone Pultz W 10 Mark Young
Alonzo Highsmith KO 3 Jeff Garrigan
Ron Lyle KO 2 Tim Pollard

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Torsten May KO 3 Fred Adams
David Izeqwire No-Contest 2 Sean Hart
Tosca Petridis W 10 Iran Barkley
Vincent Boulware W 10 Exum Speight
Brian LaSpada KO 5 Robert Straw
Terry Dunstan W 12 Dennis Andries
Art Jimmerson W 8 Wimpy Halstead

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Henry Maske W 12 Graciano Rocchigiani
(Retains IBF Title)
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 4 Paul Carlo
Michael Nunn W 10 Earl Butler
Ole Klemetsen KO 4 Nigel Rafferty
Eddy Smulders W 12 Christophe Girard
Gary Ballard KO 4 Nate Jackson
Noel Magee KO 7 Garry Delaney
Louis Del Valle W 8 Saidi Ali
John Scully W 8 Willie Kemp

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Frank Liles KO 6 Frederic Seillier
(Retains WBA Title)
Chris Eubank KO 1 Bruno Godoy
Roberto Duran KO 7 Roni Martinez
Daren Zenner KO 4 Adam Garland
Camilo Alarcon KO 1 Javier Rivera
Ron Collins Tech. Dec. 4 Charles Scott

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Jorge Castro KO 12 Anthony Andrews
(Retains WBA Title)
Quincy Taylor KO 7 Rafael Williams
Lonnie Bradley KO 12 David Mendez
Rodney Toney KO 5 Agustin Renteria
Peter Venancio KO 3 Humberto Aranda
Howard Davis Jr. W 10 Glen Odem
Chris Pyatt W 8 Anthony Ivory
Lonny Beasley KO 6 Kevin Whaley-El
Andrew Council KO 4 Tim Dendy
Young Dick Tiger Tech. Draw 9 Armando Campas
Mike Baker KO 2 John Boys

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Ruben Ruiz
Bronco McKart W 12 Aaron Davis
Winky Wright W 8 Leon Cessiron
Steve Martinez W 8 Jeff Leggett
Darrin Morris KO 4 Tommy Small
Glenwood Brown W 10 Roosevelt Walker

WELTERWEIGHTS
Derrell Coley KO 3 John Jeter
Oba Carr KO 2 Bill Bradley
Vince Phillips W 10 Rene Herrera
Hector Camacho W 12 Homer Gibbins
Eamonn Loughran No-Contest 3 Angel Beltre
Sammy Fuentes W 12 Hector Lopez
Jesse James Hughes KO 1 Kenny Lewis
Ramon Guzman KO 1 Adolfo Castillo
Reggie Green W 10 David Taylor
Fabian Tejeda W 10 Mauro Gutierrez
Terrence Alli No-Contest 3 Alberto Alicia
Shannon Taylor Tech. Dec. 5 Buck Smith
Willie Wise W 10 Jose Avila
Lonnie Smith KO 2 Cornell Culbert
Ruben Castillo KO 2 Javier Valadez

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Juan Coggi W 10 Hiroyuki Sakamoto
Ross Hale KO 4 Shaun Cogan
Sharmba Mitchell KO 5 Wayne Boudreaux
Leonardo Mas KO 1 Alvin Patten
Gustavo Serrano W 10 Clifford Hicks
Terrell Finger W 8 Carl Griffith
Sal Lopez KO 4 Jermal Corbin
Gilberto Serrano W 10 Harold Bennett

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Marty Jakubowski
(Retains WBC Title)
Orzubek Nazarov KO 2 Won Park
(Retains WBA Title)
John-John Molina W 10 Mark Reels
Billy Schwer KO 11 Stephen Chungu
Ivan Robinson KO 5 Jimmy Deoria
Lamar Murphy W 10 Steve Larrimore
Pete Taliaferro KO 3 Bob Hicks
Michael Ayers KO 3 Charles Shepherd

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Victor Hugo Paz KO 5 Ramon Gonzalez
Harold Warren W 10 Ulises Chong
Carlos Hernandez W 10 Angel Aldama
Yuji Watanabe W 10 Cris Saguid
Floyd Havard KO 9 Michael Armstrong
David Toledo W 10 Lee Cargle
Little Guns Pumar W 10 Eduardo Perez
Harold Petty KO 6 Clifton Woods

ATHERWEIGHTS
Rojas W 12 Yung Kyun Park
(tains WBA Title)
ndro Gonzalez KO 9 Tony Green
(tains WBC Title)
Johnson W 12 Eddie Croft
(tains IBF Title)
ar Soto W 10 Raul Martinez Mora
se Benavides W 10 Roberto Villareal
stead Clayton W 10 Eddie Rangel
sho Espinosa KO 8 Singhnum Yamaki Gym
id Santos KO 3 Roy Simpson
Gorres W 10 Jae Won Choi
in McMillan W 8 Peter Judson

NIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
tor Acero-Sanchez D 12 Daniel Zaragoza
(tains WBC Title)
co Antonio Barrera KO 2 Frankie Toledo
ando Canizales KO 2 Kino Rodriguez
es Adams W 10 Felipe Garcia
ior Jones W 10 Sean Wilkins
el Del Valle KO 7 Rafael Ortega
nny Armour KO 3 Matthew Harris
chi Kasai KO 10 Jun Llano

NTAMWEIGHTS
rung MP Petroleum D 12 Lakhin CP Gym
(tains WBA Title)
a Konadu KO 6 Habran Torres
Austin W 10 Javier Diaz
tor Rabanales KO 4 Javier Cintron

NIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
shi Kawashima W 12 Seung Koo Lee
(tains WBC Title)
cilio Espino W 10 Paul Rios
y Salazar W Disq. 2 Noe Santanilla

YWEIGHTS
en Sow Ploenchit W 12 Evangelio Perez
(tains WBA Title)
k Johnson KO 5 Rafael Granillo
hael Carbajal KO 4 Francisco Carrasco
as Zamudio KO 6 Jesus Jimenez
Gamez W 12 Aquiles Guzman
oki Ioka KO 4 Dong Soo Kim
uel Martinez KO 7 Antonio Ruiz
sus Rojas KO 7 Takashi Ohba

NIOR FLYWEIGHTS
gar Cardenas W Disq. 9 Jesus Chong

TRAWWEIGHTS
anapol Sor Voraphin KO 2 Oscar Flores
(tains IBF Title)
ne Sanchez KO 1 Fernando Martinez
ma Gamboa KO 6 Chul Woo Lee

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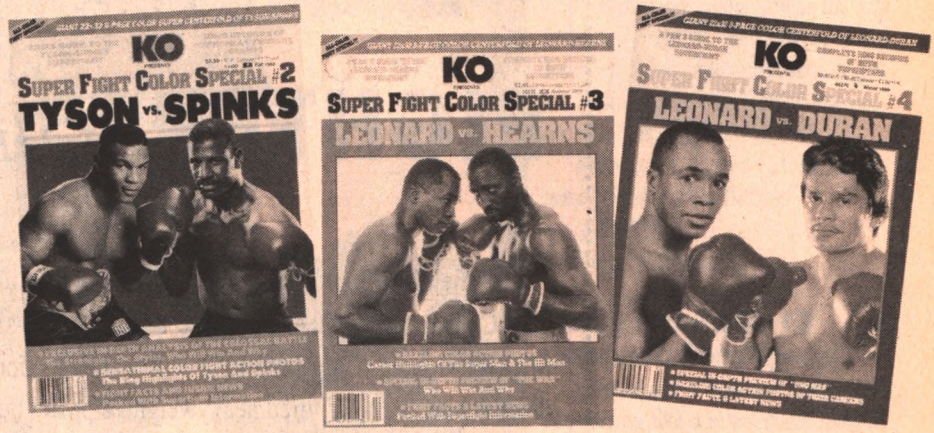

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Holyfield's inspired victory over Ray Mercer, a unanimous 10-round decision at the Atlantic City Convention Center, may have been a career-saver. After losing the heavyweight title to Michael Moorer in April 1994, "The Real Deal" announced his retirement. It was all too easy to dismiss him as an old, tired heavyweight, a poster boy for boxing burnout. But after receiving a clean bill of health and then outfighting a trim and primed Mercer, the 32-year-old two-time former king is now being mentioned as an opponent for Mike Tyson.

Holyfield, 31-2 (22), alternately outboxed and outfought Mercer, whose superb effort hinted at what an underachiever he's been. In the eighth, Mercer, 23-3-1 (16), suffered the first knockdown of his career. By then, Holyfield was fighting with desperation, a cut over his right eye having covered his face with blood.

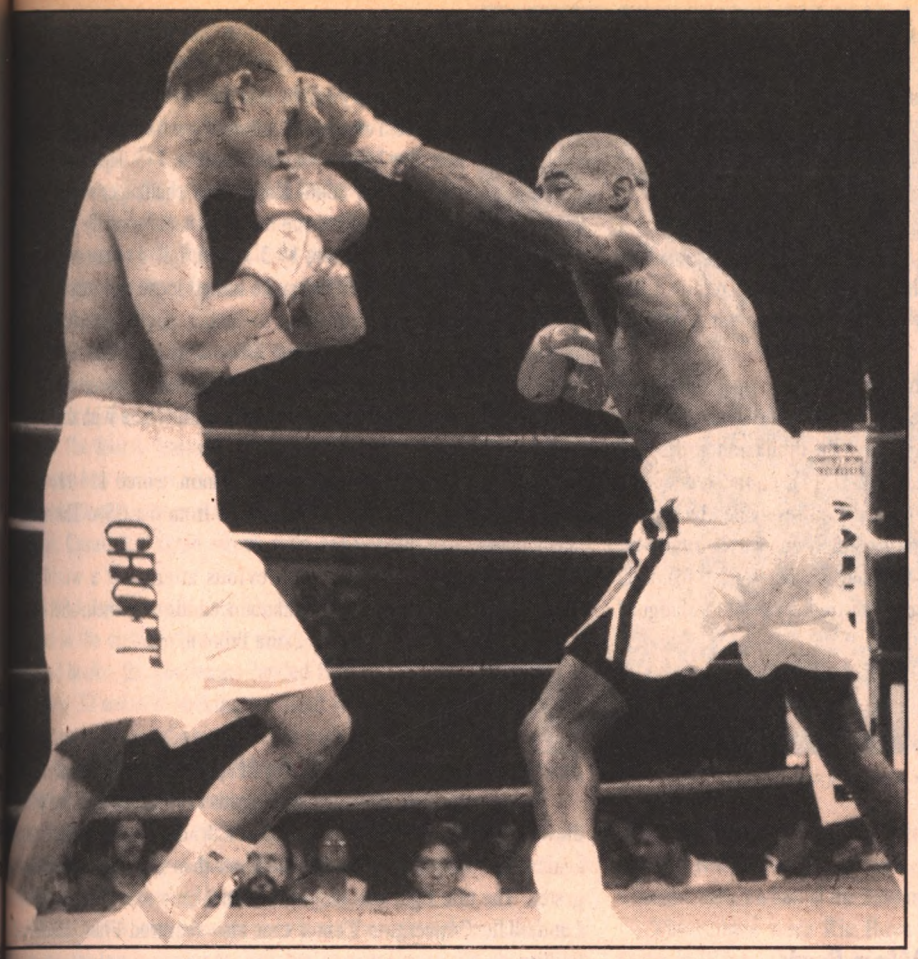
After 10 high-energy rounds, Holyfield triumphed by unanimous scores of 97-92, 96-93, and 95-94.

Tyson isn't the only heavyweight who's back.

Photo by Bill Apter

• • • •

Evander Holyfield



Johnson's jab was just long enough to throw Croft off

om Johnson W 12 Eddie Croft

South Padre Island, Texas: You're the IBF featherweight champion. ve just scored a unanimous decision victory in your seventh success- defense. And you're about to take off for the IBF convention, where 'll share 1994 Fighter of the Year honors with Roy Jones.

So what could "Boom Boom" Johnson possibly have to feel dissatis- and frustrated about?

Plenty. Johnson's latest triumph, a lopsided whitewashing of "Prime e" Croft, did little to extend the champion's reputation beyond the ll circle of boxing insiders who already appreciate him. The bout, held e South Padre Island Convention Center, was nationally televised by S, yet few people noticed, and even fewer were talking about it at the ce water cooler the next day. Such are the pains of being almost too d at what you do and blending into a world where championships come eap.

Engaging in his first world title fight, Croft, 125, San Mateo, fornia, just didn't have the firepower to slow the champion. Johnson, 5½, Detroit, was in command the entire way, primarily behind his jab. ther man was seriously hurt, and the only time Croft, 22-2-1 (10), won nds was when Johnson, 30, eased off and allowed the 25-year-old chal- ger to set the pace. With both boxers preferring to counterpunch, it was a memorable bout.

"My job is to stay in the gym and keep learning my trade," said nson, 40-2-1 (24), as he iced his right hand after the victory. "I feel I'm entertainer. I'm not out to impress everybody, just do what I do best. I to give 110 percent every round, every minute, every second."

Gary Merritt and Joe Pasquale both scored 119-109, giving Croft only the 11th round, and Dr. Ruben Garcia saw it 120-108. THE RING scored 116-112 for Johnson. The referee was Rafael Ramos. All four officials are from the USA.

Perhaps a unification match will secure Johnson some of the recognition he deserves. At this point, however, the prospects for a bout vs. WBC champion Alejandro Gonzalez or WBA king Eloy Rojas don't seem good.

"I want to be recognized as the best featherweight in the world," said Johnson. "Those other guys should give me a chance to unify. Let's show people what this division really is."

Promoters: Sport Talent Enterprises, Garden State Boxing

(5-28-95)

Bruce Williams

Henry Maske W 12 Graciano Rocchigiani

Dortmund, Germany: Exhausted and reeling like a street drunk, Maske clung on desperately during a sustained final-round onslaught and retained the IBF light heavyweight title by unanimous decision at Westfalenhalle. It was his seventh defense.

The much-anticipated battle of southpaws, the first all-German world title fight in history, failed to deliver until the last four rounds, by which time the 26-year-old champion had utilized his superior height and reach to establish a comfortable points advantage. Former IBF super middleweight champion Rocchigiani, 173½, Berlin, transformed events in the ninth with a series of hard lefts that drove Maske into the challenger's corner. Maske, 174, Frankfurt, regrouped to punish his rival in rounds 10 and 11 before experiencing his most anxious moments as a professional in the final round.

Although no real damage was inflicted in the opening three rounds, the 31-year-old Rocchigiani, 37-2-1 (19), had the better of the notoriously slow-starting champion. His defense was tight and his punches were thrown more compactly and fluidly. Maske's jab lacked potency, but it began to impact more regularly against Rocchigiani's face in the fourth.

Maske, 27-0 (12), started to pick off the challenger from long range in the fifth and effectively mixed in his left-hand power shots. His clear sailing was unpleasantly interrupted by Rocchigiani's attack in the ninth. After his rally in the 10th and 11th, the champion wilted in the 12th, when a short right-left combinations knocked him back in ungainly fashion. Rocchigiani flurried with both hands, and a powerful right and overhand left to the jaw placed Maske in dire trouble. He tried to clinch but fell awkwardly to the canvas and was fortunate to escape a count from referee Bobby Ferrara (USA). Maske held on until the final bell before sagging into the arms of one of his cornermen.

Enzo Scala (Italy) scored 117-111, while both Heinrich Muhmert

(Germany) and Manuel DeCasas (Spain) saw it 116-113. THE RING had Maske in front by 116-112.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner, in association with RTL

(5-27-95)

Brian Doogan

Saen Sow Ploenchit W 12 Evangelio Perez

Hat Yai, Thailand: Unbeaten speedster Ploenchit proved faster, sharper, and more clever than mandatory challenger Perez and retained the WBA flyweight title for the fifth time by unanimous decision at Ank-Seng Samakee Stadium.

Ploenchit, 111½, Thailand, seemed bewildered by the opening attacks of Perez, 111½, Panama. The challenger struck with hooks and crosses, but Ploenchit began scoring with stinging lefts in the third and fourth.

In the fifth, the 25-year-old Perez, 20-2-1 (17), connected with a vicious right that staggered the champion. Ploenchit responded by repeatedly firing left-rights, and the second half of the bout was a total war. More accurate with his punches, the 24-year-old Ploenchit, 22-0 (6), took the sixth, seventh, eighth, and 10th rounds. The fighters were too fatigued to fire any meaningful punches in the 12th.

Larry Rozadilla (USA) scored 116-114, Luis Rivera (USA) 116-113, and Kazumasa Kuwata (Japan) 117-111.

"It was my toughest fight," said Ploenchit. "I realized I couldn't go inside, so I punched at long range."

The referee was Rudy Battle (USA).

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(5-7-95)

Joe Koizumi

Orzubek Nazarov KO 2 Won Park

Tokyo, Japan: Unbeaten Japan-based Russian Nazarov made surprisingly short work of the previously undefeated Park, flooring him for the count with a vicious blow to the solar plexus at Korakuen Hall. The time of the kayo was 1:58.

Making his third defense, Nazarov, 135, Tokyo, Japan, met a challenger who was renowned for his durability. The 24-year-old Park, 135, South Korea, dropped down from junior welterweight, where he formerly reigned as OPBF champion. He opened in a crouch, firing wild left hooks. The southpaw Nazarov, 28, coolly eluded the punches and occasionally countered with a right. Then he quickly found the challenger's weakness by aiming straight lefts to the body. When the lightweights clashed on the inside, Nazarov, 21-0 (16), dug a left uppercut into the solar plexus, and Park, 15-1-1 (6), fell to all fours, then collapsed onto his back. He was unable to beat the count of referee Carlos Berrocal (Panama).

Given the prefight expectations, Park was a major disappointment.

The judges were Rodolfo Maldonado (Panama), Ernesto Magana (Mexico), and Osvaldo Sanchez (Venezuela).

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(5-15-95)

Joe Koizumi

Hiroshi Kawashima W 12 Seung Koo Lee

Yokohama, Japan: Slick lefty Kawashima came off the canvas and retained the WBC super flyweight title for the third time by unanimously outpointing Lee at the Yokohama Cultural Gymnasium.

From the start, the 25-year-old Kawashima, 115, Japan, proved too fast and clever for Lee, 114¾, South Korea. The challenger was regarded as a dangerous opponent, but Kawashima, 17-2-1 (12), easily piled up points against his flat-footed foe. Lee, 17-3-1 (13), failed to connect with meaningful blows until the eighth, when he turned loose and attacked in combination. He was unable, however, to land a payoff punch. In the 10th another such outburst deposited Kawashima on the canvas, but the Japanese was saved by the bell. The champion kept his distance in the 11th, then showed his gameness by mixing furiously with the 23-year-old Lee in the 12th.

Both Dalby Shirley and Marty Sammon scored 116-111 and Larry Hazzard Jr. 117-112. All three judges are from the USA. The referee was Guadalupe Garcia (Mexico).

Lee, who had failed in his previous attempt at a world title (vs. Katsuya Onizuka in April 1994), announced his retirement after the bout.

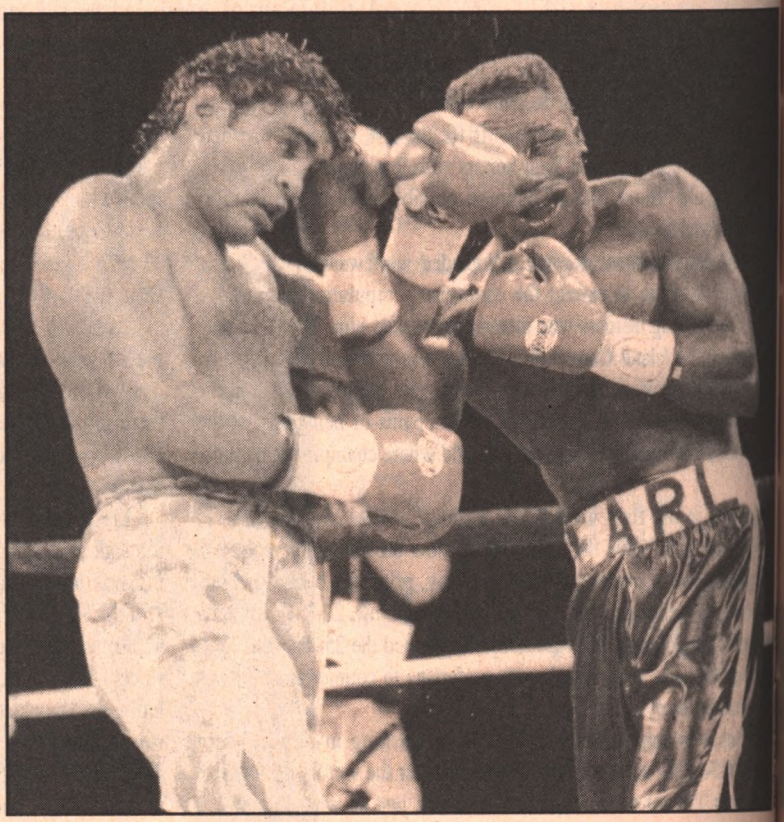
Promoter: Kyokuto and Yonekura Promotions

(5-24-95)

Joe Koizumi

Jorge Castro KO 12 Anthony Andrews

Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Making his third defense of the WBA middleweight title, Castro scored another dramatic, late-rounds stoppage against an opponent who fought far better than his record would have suggested. The title fight was the co-headliner on a marathon card at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center that also featured Frank Liles-Frederic Seillier.



In brawling with Castro, Andrews proved guttier than expected

ndrews, 158¼, Georgetown, Guyana, hadn't fought in SA since 1988. Moreover, "The Pearl" had suffered osses in 34 career starts. Castro, 159¾, Santa Cruz, ntina, made it clear from the start he had no intention ing the distance. He swung from his heels, with his on of choice a wild overhand right. Andrews displayed defensive skills and a crisp jab that kept Castro farther than he wanted to be. But while he managed to elude of Castro's overhand rights, he couldn't escape the pion's left hooks.

Castro hurt Andrews late in the second, landing two to the body and a booming overhand right to the head. grew bolder in the third until a counter right slowed his ntum. The fourth featured terrific action. Uncertain her Castro was really hurt after stunning the Argentine a combination, Andrews backed off and boxed. By the 's end, Castro had again struck with heavy combina-

Castro, 97-4-2 (68), took the fifth, but Andrews, 23-9-2 rallied in the sixth. When the middleweights simultaously fired hooks, the challenger landed first, and Castro the next 30 seconds shaking his head in an effort to his senses. The action continued into the seventh, Andrews connected with a hook and a soft right. went down, and even though it seemed clear he had ed, referee Bernie Soto (USA) ruled a knockdown. It was the first in 231 amateur and pro bouts that Castro had been off his feet. All judges scored the round 10-8 for Andrews.

The 30-year-old Andrews swept rounds six through eight and was on a going into the last four rounds. But that's when Castro, 27, showed his pionship mettle. Feeding Andrews a steady diet of left-hand leather, t his opponent in the ninth and 11th. Andrews bravely tried to box fused to be knocked down, but when he was knocked silly by a hook 12th, Soto intervened at the 2:14 mark.

After 11 rounds, Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) and Gustavo Padilla ma) had Castro ahead by 105-104, while Al Wilensky (USA) had ws in front by the same score.

The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(5-27-95)

Ken Knox

nk Liles KO 6 Frederic Seillier

Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Retaining the WBA super middleweight for the second time, Liles impressively halted former European champ Seillier, and in doing so took a giant step toward a unification with titlist Nigel Benn.

Seillier, 167, Toulon, France, crowded Liles, 166¼, Los Angeles, from pening bell, but the 6'2½" southpaw champion kept his distance and ed off jarring right-left combinations. Seillier was made to order for he walked straight in, kept his head exposed, and showed no power precious little ability. The 30-year-old Liles, 27-1 (17), scored as he ed.

Seillier, 39-6-2 (26), tried to work Liles' body, but he did little more garner a handful of low-blow warnings from referee Bill Connors A. In trying to move inside, he absorbed plenty of punishment. He ut over his right eye in the fourth and dropped by a right to the head in the sixth. The 30-year-old Frenchman beat the count, but his face was covered with blood, and he was getting pummeled with right hands when Connors called a halt at the 2:44 mark of the sixth.

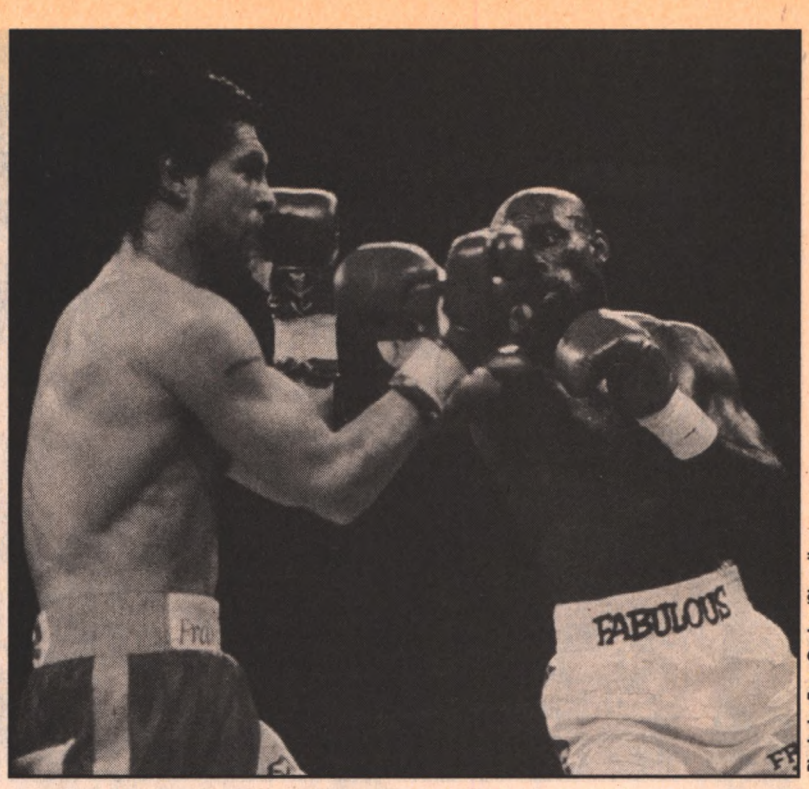


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Liles pummels Seillier

The judges were Ric Bays (USA), Armand Krief (France), and Gonzalo Riveras (Venezuela).

Promoter Don King's marathon 13-bout card included three 12-rounders and 10 10-rounders.

(5-27-95)

Ken Knox

Antonio Cermeno W 12 Wilfredo Vasquez

Bayamon, Puerto Rico: Before Vasquez' 10th defense of the WBA junior featherweight title, Cermeno said the 33-year-old champion was "getting too old, has been through a lot of wars, and is ready to be taken." Vasquez responded by promising an early knockout, but his rival was apparently correct; in a major surprise, Cermeno captured the crown by majority decision before 4,000 fans at Ruben Rodriguez Coliseum.

Ironically, this was road warrior Vasquez' first defense at home. Cermeno, 122, Venezuela, opened cautiously, but by the fourth round he knew he could battle Vasquez, 122, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, on the inside. Vasquez tried to turn the fight around with one big punch, but the lanky Cermeno, 25, absorbed the champion's powerpunches while remaining busier. Vasquez, 42-7-3 (32), faded in the late rounds, and Cermeno, 22-1 (15), forced him to retreat and used his reach advantage to control the fight.

"I could feel the power of his fists, but I could control him, hold him inside," said Cermeno, who after the fight signed with promoter Don King.

The decision was close, but few could argue that Cermeno wasn't worthy of the title. Al Rochin (Mexico) scored 115-114, Custodio Tovar (Venezuela) 116-114, and Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) 116-116. THE RING scored for Cermeno by 115-113. The referee was Luis Rivera (USA).

"I think it could have gone either way," said Vasquez' manager, Tuto

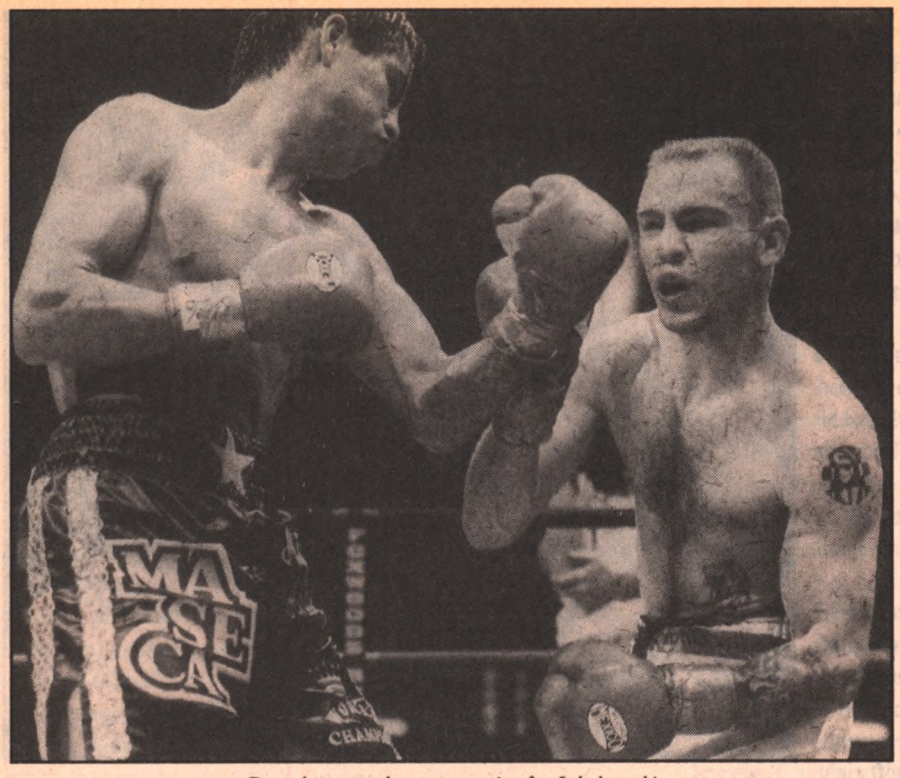


Photo by Ray Bailey

Gonzalez proved too aggressive for Jakubowski

Zabala, "and I will ask for a return. Of course, Wilfredo still wants a chance at gaining a third title, so we will also be gunning for a featherweight title match, possibly against WBA champion Eloy Rojas."

If Vasquez had suffered from overconfidence, it was somewhat understandable. Cermeno's only loss came on points to South Korea's Jae Won Choi in December 1993. In Choi's next start, he was destroyed by Vasquez in two rounds.

(5-13-95)

Mario Rivera Martino

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Marty Jakubowski

Ledyard, Connecticut: Wearing a stony-eyed mask of controlled rage, WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez took the full 12 rounds to hunt down ultra-slick and quick Jakubowski. Gonzalez' ninth defense was the main event, as well as the last and least dramatic fight on the Los Conquistadores pay-per-view card at Foxwoods Resort.

Gonzalez, 135, Mexico City, Mexico, patiently allowed Jakubowski, 134¼, Whiting, Indiana, to circle and jab for four rounds. Then he began to cut off the ring and pelt the 25-year-old challenger with rights to the body. The Mexican also frequently featured a right uppercut, which proved to be his most effective weapon.

Jakubowski never hurt Gonzalez, though he scored with numerous jabs and rights in the early rounds. In the sixth, referee Mickey Vann (England) deducted a point from the champion for punching low, but this never percolated into a brawl. The only highlight came in the eighth, when the 24-year-old Gonzalez, 37-0 (29), stepped on his rival's foot and landed a right, producing a knockdown.

Gonzalez' points victory was unanimous, with Dave Brown (Canada) scoring 120-108, Gelasio Perez (Mexico) 120-108, and Tom Kaczmarek (USA) 119-109. CompuBox had Gonzalez landing more punches (320) than Jakubowski threw (310).

"I plan on fighting two more fights in this division," said the winner. "I'll wait for a match with Oscar De La Hoya. And I'm ready for [Julio Cesar] Chavez. I think I could defeat him. The next time I talk about Mr. Chavez or De La Hoya, it will be in the ring."

Promoters: Azteca Promotions, Pequa Entertainment Group

(6-2-95)

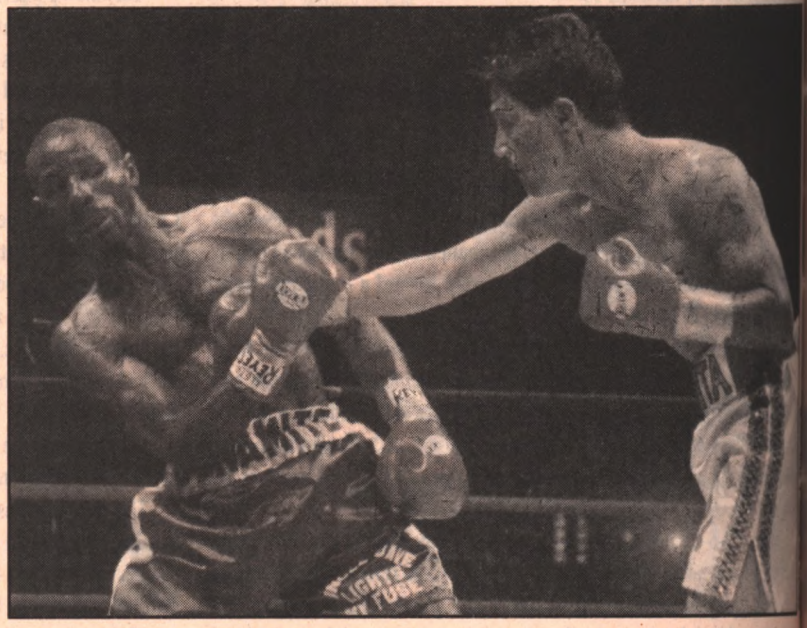
Tom Deedy

Alejandro Gonzalez KO 9 Tony Green

Ledyard, Connecticut: Striking 30 seconds into the bout and dominating until the referee's intervention, WBC featherweight champion Gonzalez retained the title for the second time, halting a game but overmatched Green at Foxwoods Resort.

Gonzalez, 126, Guadalajara, Mexico, dropped the 28-year-old Green, 124¼, Philadelphia, early in the first round with a booming double-hook. The 21-year-old champion scored another knockdown in the seventh when he floored Green with a right uppercut and a shove. Gonzalez was well ahead on all cards when referee Luis Carlos Guzman (Argentina) called a halt at the 31-second mark of the ninth. The judges were Franz Marti (Switzerland), Tony Perez (USA), and Jose Medina (Mexico).

"Tony Green was quicker than Kevin Kelley," said Gonzalez. "He is very tough to stand in there with me like that. I knew I was too strong for him, as a champion should be."



"Cobrita" Gonzalez hammered Green from start to finish

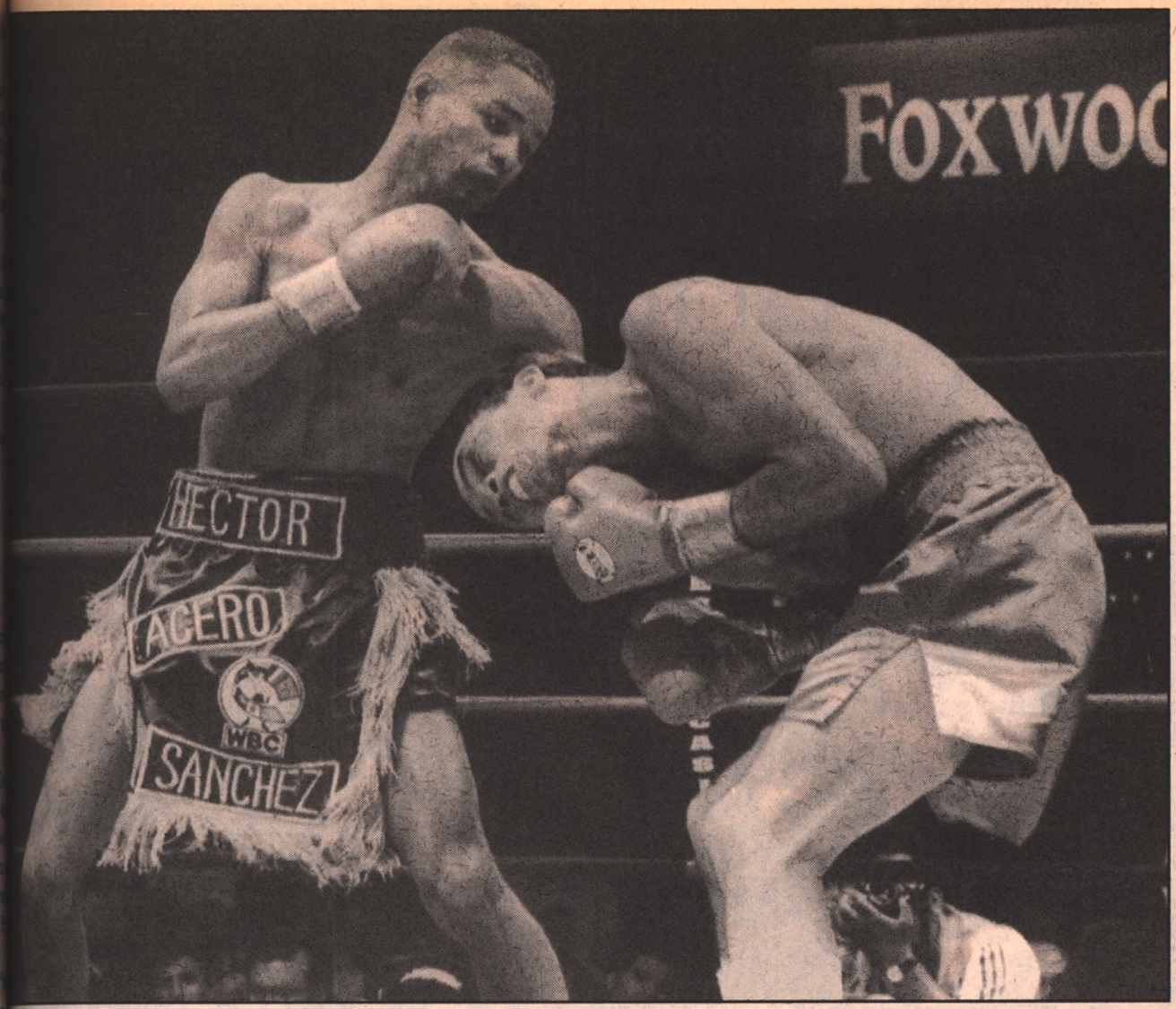


Photo by Ray Bailey

Acero-Sanchez barely hung on against Zaragoza

reen, 23-4-1 (15), tried to match the swarming Gonzalez blow for but his body attack never slowed the champion down. By the sixth the Philadelphian was stationary, and Gonzalez, 37-2 (26), scored leased.

t is very good to be champion," Gonzalez said. "And you have not he best. My future is greater than my past."

2-95)

m Deedy

tor Acero-Sanchez D 12 Daniel Zaragoza

dyard, Connecticut: Relentless and lion-hearted, three-time former champion Zaragoza battered WBC super bantamweight champion Sanchez in nearly every round, won the hearts of the 2,778 fans in nce at Foxwoods Resort, but failed to take the title. Making his sec- defense, Acero-Sanchez kept the crown by majority draw.

ustrated and bleeding from numerous facial cuts, the 37-year-old oza announced his retirement afterward.

"I feel in my heart that I won the fight," he said, "but the decision has given and I have to accept it."

cero-Sanchez, 121¾, Bronx, New York, via Santo Domingo, nican Republic, circled and stayed away from the ever-charging challenger. Zaragoza, 122, Mexico City, Mexico, broke through in the fourth, flooring the champion with an overhand right to the forehead. Zaragoza, 50-7-3 (25), pounded away and nearly scored a stoppage, but Acero-Sanchez grabbed until the bell.

In the fifth, the 25-year-old champion was penalized a point by referee Arthur Mercante (USA) for butting.

"It was a rough fight to handle," said Mercante. "They were wrestling, arming, elbowing … two tough kids."

After suffering the knockdown, Acero-Sanchez, 32-2-3 (20), showed a cleverness beyond his years. To his credit, he did what he had to to retain the title, rallying over the last two rounds with rapid-fire jabs and straight rights. His effort was just enough, as Fred Ucci and Vinnie Rainone both scored 114-114 and Cindy Bartin 114-112 for the champion. THE RING scored 116-110 for Zaragoza. All three judges are from the USA.

"The fight was much more difficult than I expected," understated Acero-Sanchez.

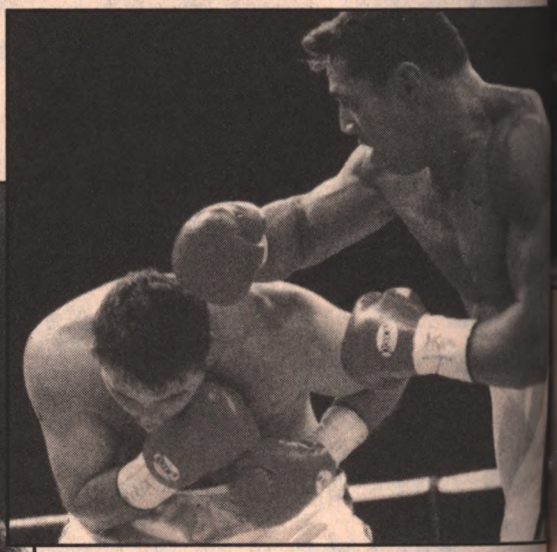
After a WBC-mandated rematch against Zaragoza, it's anticipated the champion will meet former bantamweight champion and fellow New Yorker Junior Jones.

(6-2-95)

Tom Deedy ■

CAMERA CLICKS

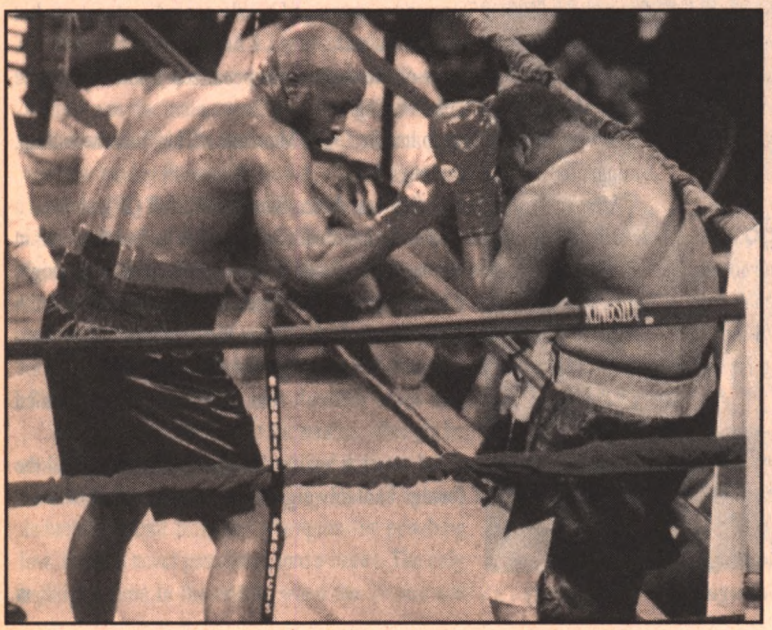
Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"



James (formerly Jimmy) Thunder has been impressive of late. In May, the Samoa-born heavyweight destroyed prospect Dan Dancuta in two rounds.

Photo by Bryan Patrick

At Arco Arena in Sacramento, former heavyweight champions Lennox Lewis and Michael Moorer returned to the winner's circle after having suffered crushing kayo defeats. Lewis pummeled Lionel Butler (above), stopping the top-10 contender in the fifth round. Moorer outworked substitute Melvin Foster (below) and won on points.



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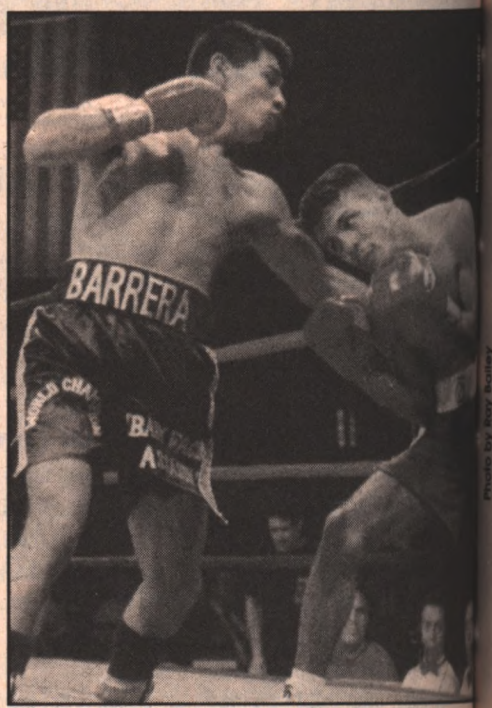
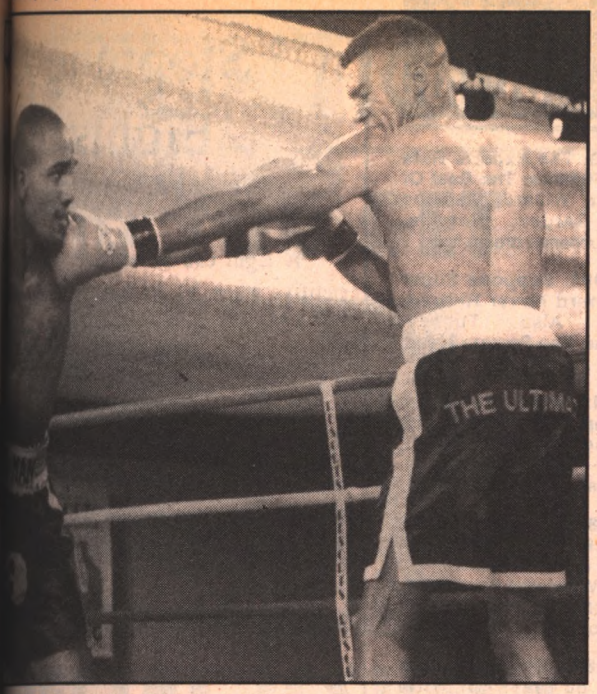


Photo by Roy Bailey

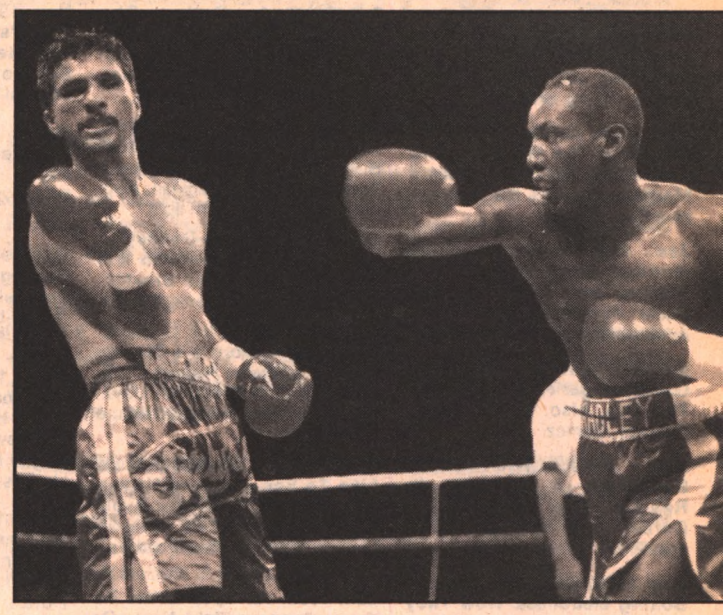
If his two-round destruction of Frankie Toledo is any indication, Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera may be the best junior featherweight in the world. Barrera is 36-0 (25).

Photo by Ray Bailey

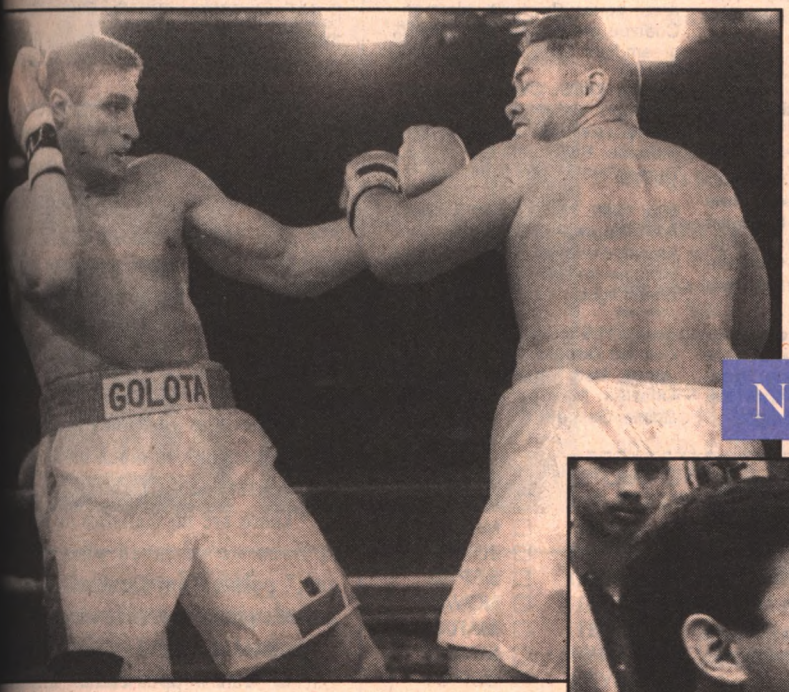


...ior middleweight contender Paul "The Ultimate" Vaden is so good, ...can fight with his eyes closed. Vaden moved closer to a world title try ...outpointing the previously unbeaten Reuben Bell over 10 rounds.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn



Unbeaten New York City middleweight Lonnie Bradley continued his march toward the top, halting David Mendez in the 12th round. Bradley is 21-0 (17).



In one of the wildest heavyweight brawls in years, Andrew Golota remained unbeaten by stopping Samson Po'uha in the fifth round. Golota is 24-0 (21).

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Fighters aren't supposed to get injured on publicity tours, but German heavyweight Karl Mildenberger took one on the schnozzola from five-year-old Alfredo Rivera during a Manhattan press stop in 1967.

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Stopping Fights

(Continued from page 51)

"A fight can be considered noncompetitive when, as the fight is progressing, one of the fighters has no way of competing with the person he's fighting. It's a referee's decision."

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which oversaw Ruelas-Garcia, said he believes the noncompetitive rule is basically universal. The real question is when to apply it.

Even the most knowledgeable, well-meaning boxing officials get tripped up by the jumble of rules and commissions, not to mention the abundance of alphabet organizations that come into play during title fights. The establishment of a national or international commission, which could straighten out the confusion, isn't going to come anytime soon. Problems must be tackled without waiting for a perfect world.

Even if we accept the position that boxing is a magnificent sport that poses less danger to its participants than motorcycle or horse racing, football, or a number of other athletic contests, we must still figure the best way to keep the fighters safe while also putting on tough, competitive bouts.

Just about everybody agrees that ring doctors and referees are more likely to stop fights now than they were in the old days. Everyone is much more conscious of the safety of the fighters.

"There are no statistics on the number of lives we've saved when we do stop one," pointed out Denkin. "Most of the time we get booed when we do."

Ratner contends that had Ruelas-Garcia been stopped earlier, it might still have ended in tragedy.

"Perhaps Garcia's only chance of surviving," he said, "was to fall down in the ring, where he got immediate attention. In my heart, I believe this was the case. There's no way to know, medically, if we'd stopped the fight, say, in the seventh, if Jimmy Garcia would be alive today.

(Continued on page 70)

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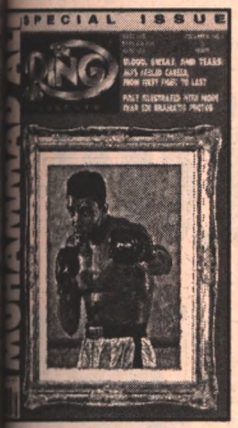

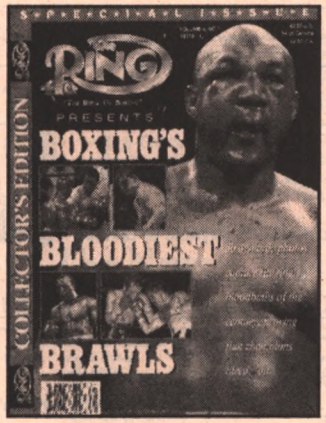

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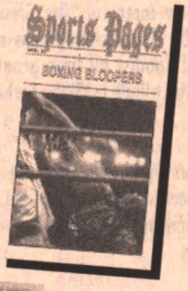

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Stopping Fights

(Continued from page 68)

"We can't determine when the bleeding ed. It was a vein in the nasal cavity. It have come from the first punch or in ng and we didn't know about it. 's no way to know these things. 's all a judgment call by the referee. is case, the referee [Mitch Halpern] ght up the doctor [Flip Homansky] two rent times—the second time between 10th and 11th rounds. The doctor said watch carefully, that if he's hit hard stop the fight. Shortly afterward, the ree did stop it.

"I know there's a fine line there. You ainly could say Jimmy had no chance inning the fight. What I look at as a ditor is when do I get involved. I don't w. It's a really fine-line question."

Still, Ratner is proud of the attention cia received after his collapse in his ct. "Our guys are the most experienced ple in the world," he said. "We regulate a lot of fights. Garcia was operated on in 35 minutes. That's incredible. They were ready with oxygen, an ambulance, CAT-scans, everything. The response time was phenomenal."

Moreover, the commission did all it could, Ratner said, to confirm that Garcia, rated seventh by the WBC, was a fit challenger for Ruelas. "Three months before, there was a press conference at Caesars Palace announcing the fight," he said. "The next day we looked everything up in the record books. The guy was 35-4 and had never been stopped."

The fact that Garcia was from Colombia did not help the fact-checkers. Records can get awfully murky in boxing nether regions like South America and Mississippi.

In his previous bout, Garcia had challenged WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez. On most cards, Hernandez won 11 of 12 rounds. So why was Garcia rated seventh? And was he really among the most competitive fighters promoter Bob Arum could find to face Ruelas? Clearly, the answer is no.

Fighters of stature engage mostly in two kinds of bouts—competitive contests and easy wins. If they fought too many real challengers, they wouldn't be able to maintain those lopsided records that their promoters and managers work so hard to build.

Garcia was a guy who was supposed to lose, and Ruelas was the house fighter. But in this case, the house fighter couldn't knock out the fall guy, who, like many brave opponents, just didn't have the skills to match his heart.

Perhaps the answer to when Ruelas-Garcia should have been stopped is before the fight took place. When you throw a guy to the lions, they just might eat him.

"The last two guys Gabe fought before Garcia he put in the hospital," noted Dr. Karns, a friend of the Ruelas family. "That was Jesse James Leija and Freddy Liberatore. Ruelas is a tough 130-pounder."

More than one expert interviewed for the story suggested referees be given more information on the contestants, including a detailed weight history. The type of fighter who must be watched carefully is a fighter with few, if any, kayo defeats on his record who has recently moved up in weight. In the case of Garcia, it was rumored he had

(Continued on page 73)

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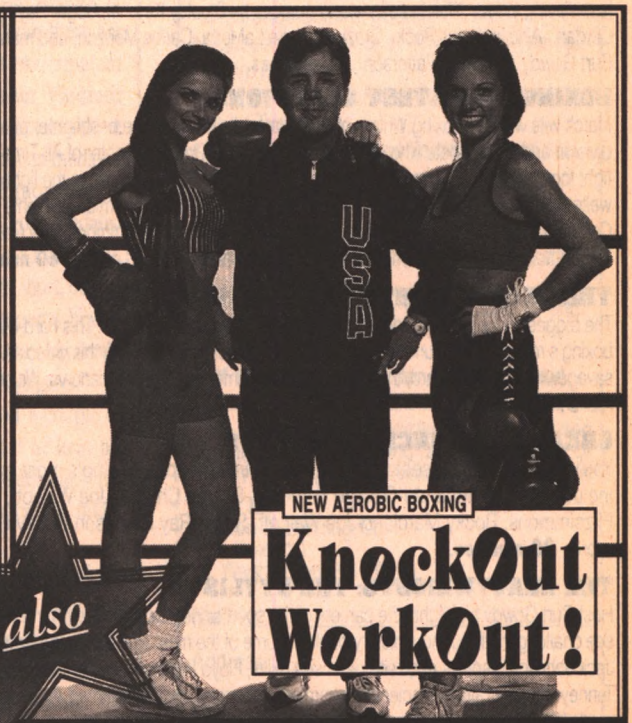

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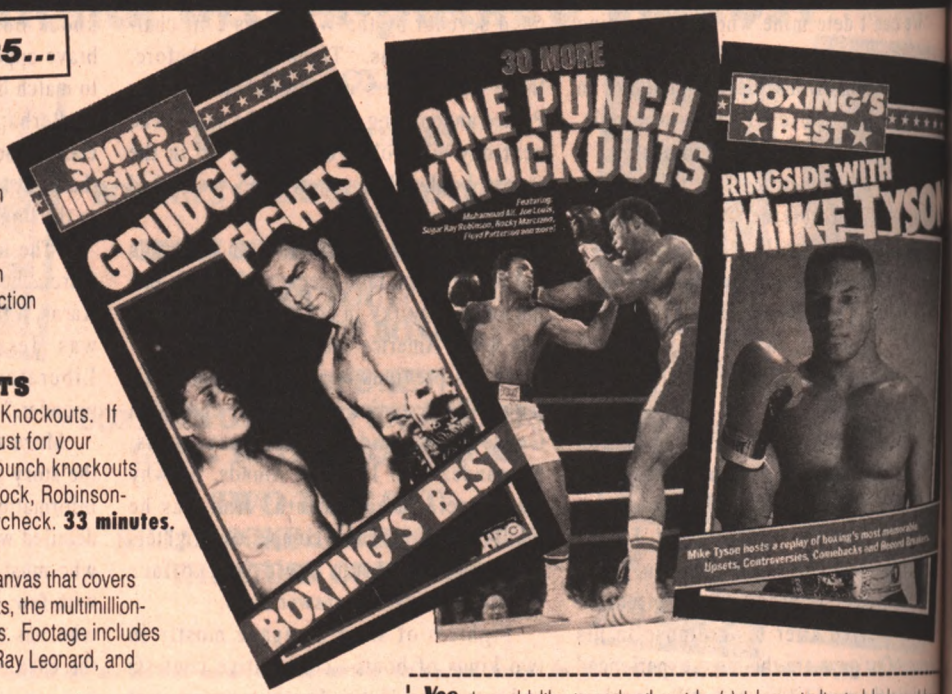

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Stopping Fights

(Continued from page 71)

…oced 30 pounds to make weight for the …elas fight.

While the roles of Halpern and Homansky …ve been debated, Garcia's corner was univer…ly criticized. Firstly, they chose not to throw …he towel. Second, they continually criticized …rcia for not working hard enough when he …s plainly doing all he could. Third, Manuel …rcia, the fighter's father, was one of the cor…rmen.

"In the last four ring deaths we've had …California," said Dr. Karns, "a father …s working in the corner."

Fathers working corners are too often …e little league dads who want to kill the …mpire, the manager, or perhaps an oppos…g player because their kid is not the next …antle or DiMaggio. Denkin said the …BC actually has a little-known rule …gainst fathers in corners. "But it's not …nforced," he added ruefully.

Whether fathers are banned from corners or …t, more stoppages will inevitably result in …ore controversies. But if there were more …KOs, going the distance might not be as …portant to fighters. Stoppages could become …more accepted part of the sport.

There are examples to prove every …oint. A referee might conceivably have …topped in and stopped James Toney-Michael Nunn or George Foreman-Michael …oorer, both of which were one-sided until …he winner landed a knockout punch. On the …ther hand, there was The Thrilla In Manila, …hich ended when Eddie Futch refused to …llow Joe Frazier to face Muhammad Ali …fter the 14th round. Futch later explained …hat no fight was worth a life. For his part, …li described the fight as "the closest I've …een to dying."

The two great warriors' willingness to …empt death itself is part of what made …heir contest one of the greatest fights of …ll-time. But it's also true that The Thrilla …n Manila is remembered as magnificent …ven though someone stepped in and said, "Enough." ■

Ivan G. Goldman is a frequent contributor to The Ring.

Jo-el Scott

(Continued from page 45)

heavyweight prospect since Mike Tyson." Co-manager Don Cepiel, who last handled a fighter in the mid-'80s, says, "I never thought I'd get back into it unless someone told me I had the best fighter in the world." And co-manager Derrick Rowland says, "With [Scott's] appeal, he could be the richest fighter ever."

But as it has always been with heavyweights, the fighter's own fists, and not the words of others, must convince us. So far, The Next Great Heavyweight, who has fought mostly near his home base of Albany, New York, has been perfect, winning all 12 of his bouts by knockout. He engaged in only 24 amateur bouts, and as a result, his professional opponents, with the exception of once-useful trialhorse Kimmuel Odum, have been predictably poor. After last-minute substitute Clarence Owens became victim number 11 in June, Cepiel said, "[Owens] was supposed to be 4-3, but I'd like to see the four guys he beat."

You can take a bouncer out of your neighborhood bar and get him a dozen consecutive kayos, so why is everyone so excited about Scott? For starters, there's his physical presence. A well-defined 6'2", 230 pounds, he isn't too short, like David Tua, or too skinny, like Corrie Sanders, or too flabby, like Buster Mathis Jr. Then there are his credentials. Scott lost his first two amateur bouts before hooking up with trainer Vladimir Koshnitsky. In 1993, he won the national title at super heavyweight, then added a bronze medal at the World Amateur Boxing Championships in Finland, losing to Cuban Olympic gold medalist Roberto Balado in the semifinals. And finally, there's his fighting style. He delivers short, devastating punches and leaves his opponents bewildered, if not disoriented. Or, as Katz succinctly puts it, "He just walks out and destroys guys."

Katz first became aware of Scott a couple of years ago. "My moles told me that if he kept his head on straight, he could be sensational," the matchmaker recalled. Top Rank recently inked Scott to a four-year deal.

Albany is about 20 miles from Catskill, New York, and Scott has more in common with Tyson than their roots. The Next Great Heavyweight was a troubled youth who spent most of his teenage years in institutions for youthful offenders. "From when I was 14 to 17, I was *gone*," Scott said. "My dad had left when I was nine months old, and my mother couldn't handle me. I was wild. I left home at 15, and all

(Continued on page 74)

THE MIKE TYSON SPECIAL!!

Shortly before Mike Tyson's release from prison in March, the editors of The Ring produced the ultimate Tyson magazine. In fact, shortly before Tyson walked through the gate of the Indiana Youth Center, "Iron Mike" was reading that very issue: What did he see?

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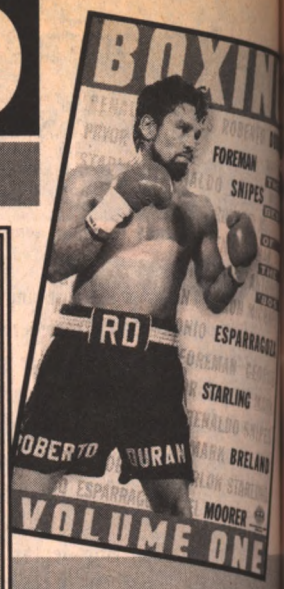

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Jo-el Scott

(Continued from page 73)

was on my mind was money because I have any. I always wanted to be rich."

The heavyweight wasn't anxious to recall the of a youth misspent. "Let's just say I 've easily been in jail a long time or dead," id.

Scott was 18 when he met Koshnitsky, a veter- ainer from the Ukraine who had relocated to USA in 1980. They developed what both ibe as a father-son relationship. Scott said hitsky "turned my life around," but there was stant transformation. "He had no discipline," hitsky said. "He had respect for his mother, e spent most of his time on the streets. He's a more disciplined person now. And I've had any problems with him in the gym."

In fact, time spent with his trainer might have what saved Scott. He remembers training for ng that the rest of his time was spent resting. n't miss the crazy things I did; I just did them rvive," he said. "I've already done everything ld to get in trouble. Now I know the conse- ces, so why do them again?"

Scott hasn't yet convinced his trainer. "I'm not dent," Koshnitsky said. "He's still a young ." Koshnitsky and Scott's managers can only the heavyweight makes headlines solely the ring. Late last year he was suspended for months by the New York State Athletic mission after testing positive for marijuana. at age 24, he has fathered four children, each om has a different mother.

"This is the toughest time for him," said land. "Trouble can come your way."

In addition to moving The Next Great yweight toward the world title, Rowland and co-managers have accepted the challenge of itoring the heavyweight's out-of-the-ring rvities. Scott is handled by Nyse Guys nagement, which bought out Koshnitsky earlier year. NGM is composed of Rowland, a former sketball player in the NBA and CBA, where he ed for the Albany Patroons, Cepiel, a busi- sman who owns the Midon Restaurant poration, and James Scott, a musician and the ger's uncle.

"Initially, I told Derrick I wasn't interested," d Cepiel. "I wasn't even reading about boxing the papers anymore. But Derrick kept talking to , and then I began to check Jo-el out.

"At 10 p.m. one night in February, Derrick ed and asked if I could come out to Las Vegas help out in a meeting with Top Rank. I said, 'When are you leaving?' He said, 'Eight o'clock tomorrow morning.' I canceled a couple of appointments and flew out with them. Six weeks later, we had a deal. When you have a fighter who's good enough, you have to hook up with a major promoter as soon as possible. Top Rank can offer national exposure."

Indeed, on the De La Hoya-Ruelas pay-per-view card in May, TVKO aired highlights of Scott's kayo of Odum.

On June 13, Scott was to have received his first live TV exposure on a USA Network-televised card from Illinois. He knocked out Carl McGrew in the first round, but USA didn't air the fight. Should Top Rank guide him to the world title by the end of 1996, The Next Great Heavyweight will owe a debt of gratitude to George Foreman, who last year broke Arum's heavyweight jinx.

Unless you're a fan of the Boston Red Sox, 14 years is a long time for a jinx to last. Top Rank's curse began with a bang, when Mike Weaver, outclassed and hopelessly behind on points, scored a last-round kayo of Arum's heavyweight of the '80s, WBA champion Big John Tate, 90 days into the decade. Things turned worse after that. Bruce Seldon got knocked out for Top Rank, then won the WBA title for Don King. Mike Tyson, Riddick Bowe, and Buster Douglas fought for Arum, too, but only in their formative years. There were prospects that never panned out, like Dorian Melamed and Chris McDonald and Larry Donald, and contenders who never realized their potential, like Tommy Morrison and Ray Mercer.

Last November, the jinx ended as it had begun—with one punch, when Foreman regained the title by kayoing Michael Moorer. Arum, who began his boxing career by promoting Muhammad Ali, is long overdue for an in-house heavyweight success. Scott is the ideal candidate; he's every bit as young as Foreman is old, as unaffected as Foreman is image-conscious, and as obscure as Foreman is universally recognized.

By the time Scott reaches the top, of course, Foreman will be raising young Georges on his farm in Texas. But Tyson will presumably still be around.

"I wasn't aware of Tyson till he was a pro," said Scott. "But he's the reason I'm fighting. Tyson, Joe Louis, and Rocky Marciano are my idols. The first time I met Tyson was at September's, a club he was part-owner of. I went to shake his hand and he looked at me like *I got no time*. I said to myself, 'This is my idol?'"

So the Last Great Heavyweight dissed The Next Great Heavyweight, huh? Tyson may regret that moment some day because if they ever meet again, Scott will know exactly just how good he is. ■

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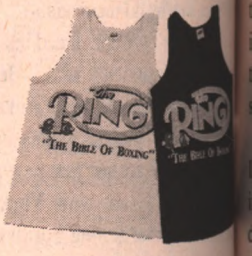

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Bronco McKart

(Continued from page 23)

Kart, 25-1 (17), proved he was for real, he'd it in a helluva fight.

"Even though I'd beaten some tough guys, Davis I don't think I ever beat a Class-A er, a guy who's been there," he said.

Besides the cut, which required 11 stitches, Kart's biggest scare came during the reading e cards. Glen Feldman scored 114-113 for , but was outvoted by Frank Cappuccino Fred Ucci, who both favored McKart by 112, the same as THE RING.

"In my honest opinion, I thought I won eight e 12 rounds, but maybe one or two others even," said McKart. "It didn't even really me, because in my heart I knew I won the When the last score was 116-112, I knew s mine."

ow freaked out had McKart been by the

"It didn't bother me until I got back to my er and the doctor was saying that they might to stop it," he said. "They said that after th round. So I went out in the 11th and let hang out. And I almost had Davis out. I ht he was going to go. I threw a lot of but he withstood the barrage."

avis, 40-4 (25), was understandably upset. been his best performance in years, and diately after the announcement of the split on, he turned away from McKart's extend- nd. But before leaving the ring, Davis con- ated the winner and asked for a rematch.

The next morning we were having break- nd Aaron came over to me and shook my ," said McKart. "We laughed and joked for minutes. He said, 'Oh, man, you beat me ittle bit,' and showed me his swollen jaw. I my sunglasses off and said, 'Oh, yeah. at me!'"

That's another difference between McKart Toney. You won't find McKart bad- ing his opponents.

To me, it's nothing personal; it's just busi- he said. "When the fight is over, it's over. 't hold nothing against anybody. I told that I appreciated the opportunity to fight d-class fighter."

McKart also seems to be handling the spot- with far more decorum than the volatile

Every fighter has a different personality," Kallen. "James likes to keep to himself. , on the other hand, likes all the attention and enjoys dealing with the media. But they're alike in one thing—they're both willing to fight anybody."

McKart will probably get an opportunity to challenge for a world title before the end of the year. He went into the Davis fight as the WBC's fifth-ranked junior middleweight. Terry Norris is the organization's number-one contender, and he is scheduled for a mandated third fight with improbable champion Luis Santana. Number-two contender Julio Cesar Green recently lost to Carl Daniels in a bout for the vacant WBA title, leaving only Laurent Boudouani and Julio Cesar Vasquez in front of McKart. And there's a chance that the southpaw's impressive victory over Davis will persuade the WBC to leapfrog him to the top spot.

McKart has already given some serious thought to the possibility of fighting the foul-prone Norris, who was disqualified in back-to-back fights against Santana. Norris will be favored to regain the title in their third meeting.

"When the second Norris-Santana fight was on TV, I just happened to be walking into the room, and I thought they were showing a replay [of the first bout]," said McKart. "If you fight a guy like Terry Norris, you *really* have to protect yourself at all times. You gotta watch that guy all the way to your stool. I've had a few guys who did dirty things, and if a guy does something intentional to me, I do it right back."

McKart is a mild-mannered, clean-living role model outside the ring, but once the bell sounds, an immediate metamorphosis takes place. Instead of the grinning, small-town kid who still gets a kick out of tooling around on his 18-speed mountain bike, opponents are faced with a ruthless professional who is prepared to do whatever it takes to come out on top.

"I'm a very prideful person," said McKart. "I always tell people I don't care if it's for $1-million or $1, when I step into the ring, I'm there to give it my all, 100 percent. Money is nice, but winning is much better. The thing I fear the most is losing."

At one point or another, pride and fear motivate most fighters. Being around Toney, McKart has seen how a loss of pride can turn even a great fighter into a relative mediocrity. He says he's smart enough to learn from his stablemate's mistakes. And even though he is now emerging from Toney's shadow, they remain good friends. In fact, McKart recently attended Toney's wedding.

"It seemed so strange seeing James up there getting married," he said.

Almost as strange as a Bible school teacher and fighter named Bronco McKart. ■

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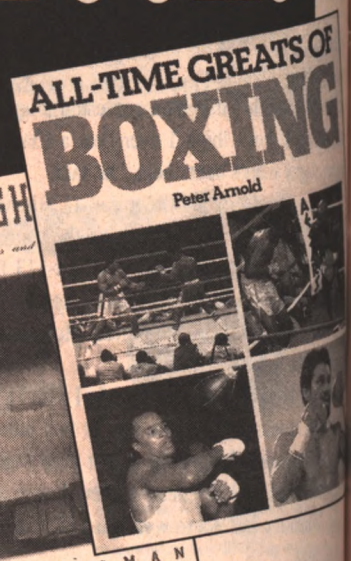

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eter McNeeley

(Continued from page 26)

rscar I ever had. It's a 1986 Nissan X. I've had a succession of s___boxes gh the years, and this is my first really sharp car. But this fight to me, from a cial standpoint, we got the best figure ed we could've gotten. Now it's time to . And as you know, it's going to be d up, so it won't be as much as everyhinks. But what I'd like to do is pay off bills and have a few things done to me ically. Maybe have my tonsils and adeout to correct some breathing problems. k out my tonsils. *[McNeeley opens his wide.]* I've got my own little speedin there. And maybe pay off some colbills. And what's left I'll put away and it and look for some more paydays. I'm to come right back after this fight with thing big. Or if necessary, just get back e winning track. There is going to be of life for Peter McNeeley after this

HE RING: *This money, then, won't e Peter McNeeley?*

M: No. I'm just going to stay at home, livwith my mom and my brother Snubby. I got ew car, mom, and Snubby, so I'm set.

HE RING: *With the nightly routine of the coming right after college at Bridgewater you've had to sacrifice some things in life, put other things off that other young do. What kind ings do you missing the or want to up on?*

M: I've d a lot of responsibilities and put a lot of my life aside. A lot of nights I stayed in and did nothing when my friends were out playing games. I didn't look to get into the work force or gain experience at any business or working field. I think it takes a lot of courage to go after this dream and deal with the shortcomings. I'm still living at home with Mom and sharing a room with Snubby, my little brother, but hey, that's my family and I love it and I love them. We're a real down-to-earth, homegrown family-style operation. I don't think that's really going to change much.

THE RING: *You've had all kinds of press, both good and bad. What's the biggest misconception about Peter McNeeley? What have we missed seeing?*

PM: I think that answer is right under everybody's nose. I really think that Peter McNeeley at his best is a local heavyweight product that's been so protected in fights back here, I've been underrated somewhat in my abilities and my progress. My crowd-pleasing style ... if more people came to see me fight in person, they would see I'm a much better fighter than I've been given credit for in the press. I've matured into a better fighter. I believe the lack of rounds in the last year-and-a-half has somewhat stymied that opinion. I need a fight to go eight or 10 rounds to capture the public's imagination.

THE RING: *Win, lose, or draw against Tyson, how do you want boxing fans to view Peter McNeeley?*

PM: He's for real. He's tougher than we thought. He's a lot better boxer, both offensively and defensively, than we thought. He's a lot more than we gave him credit for being. They'll respect me as a fighter and an athlete. ■

"It's no secret: The whole event is going to be maybe the fight of the century. The numbers may eclipse Ali-Frazier I. In my eyes, if it does that, then my dreams will have come true."

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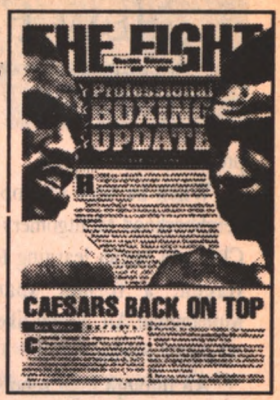

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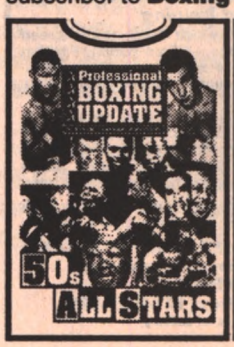

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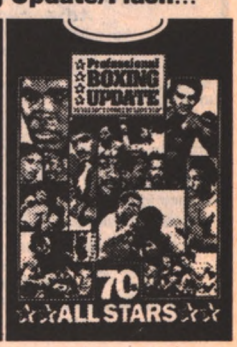

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New Faces

(Continued from page 57)

prepare him for boxing.

When he was 14, Joppy walked into the neighborhood Montgomery Police Boys & Girls Club and began learning to box from big Ray Hagen, a former sparring partner for Muhammad Ali. Joppy liked boxing, but didn't commit the time.

All through high school, he was in and out of the gym, working out and learning, but never entering any tournaments.

"I was thinking about going into the Army—my sister went—and then I said nah," recalled Joppy. "I was laying carpet when I graduated. I was getting ready to leave Rockville because there were no trainers there. The day I went there to tell [gym manager] Bill Green I was going to leave, Sgt. [Charles] Mooney started working there."

Mooney is one of the forgotten members of the 1976 U.S. Olympic gold rush squad of Leonard, Howard Davis Jr., the Spinks brothers, and Leo Randolph. Overshadowed by his famous teammates, he took down a silver medal at 119 pounds and never turned pro. When Joppy teamed with Mooney, he began to take off.

Joppy may not have fought his first amateur bout until he was 19 years old, but he was an instant sensation. He rose out of the Potomac Valley ranks to capture third place at the 1992 National Golden Gloves in Chicago at 165 pounds. Later that year, he swept to victory in the Eastern Regionals of the Olympic Trials. At the Trials, he reached the semifinals, losing to Chris Byrd, now a promising heavyweight.

Joppy had five more amateur fights, finishing with a record of 48-4. It was time to turn pro.

After an aborted start with a promoter in Virginia, Joppy signed with former Leonard aides J.D. Brown and Ollie Dunlop. For years one of the top matchmakers in the D.C. area, Brown decided to immediately test Joppy.

"We put him in with a guy named Dwayne Tennet, who had a body like Evander Holyfield," he recalled. "Joppy was nervous, but he got through that, and I knew he was going to be good. Joppy showed me a lot—he got hit on the button, defense, the whole nine yards."

After his second pro fight, Joppy got into a dispute with Mooney, and Brown and Dunlop quickly enlisted Correa to take over the training. Brown mapped out a strategy where the fighter would face a progressively more difficult series of journeymen who had been in with top fighters. Ivory Teague (KO 2) had fought Gerald McClellan and Dana Rosenblatt; Willie Taylor (KO 3) had gone the distance with Buddy McGirt, Tony Martin, and Larry Barnes; Tony McCrimmion (KO 2) had faced Lonnie Bradley and Winky Wright.

Joppy clobbered them all, knocking out 12 straight opponents. It was his fight with Carl Sullivan, however, that was a turning point.

"When I fought him, I knew I was ready," Joppy said. "I knocked him out in the fourth round. I knew then I could fight the best."

Joppy was a late substitute. Despite having lost seven of eight bouts, Sullivan was once an extremely bright prospect. Despite his slide, he was no pushover. In the first round, the cagey Sullivan spun Joppy around with a hard right. Joppy kept his cool and boxed out of danger. In the fourth, Sullivan came out firing. He launched a big overhand right that missed. Joppy set, delivered a short right-hand counter from the hip, and Sullivan crashed face-first to the canvas. He arose, but Joppy pounded away until the fight was stopped.

"I talked to Sullivan after the fight," said Brown. "I had used him as a sparring partner for Ray [Leonard] for the Terry Norris fight. Carl said this kid could punch like a mule kick."

In disposing of Sullivan, Joppy has displayed the talents he hopes will take him to the top—the ability to punch hard, but also outbox difficult opponents. Correa preaches that "styles make fights," and Joppy prides himself on his adaptability.

After beating Sullivan, Joppy racked up five more wins, signing a promotional deal with Don King along the way. On the undercard of the Vincent Pettway-Simon Brown card at USAir Arena in April, he found himself in his second biggest test.

Dominican Joaquin Velazquez was by far the classiest opponent Joppy had faced. Included in his record was a knockout of Milton McCrory and decision losses to Gianfranco Rosi, John David Jackson, and a comebacking Howard Davis Jr.

Brown, Correa, and Joppy all refuse to concede how much trouble Velazquez gave them over the 10 rounds, but it was a handful.

Joppy came out gunning in the first round, spinning Velazquez into the ropes and furiously unloading bombs. At ringside, Correa was screaming, "Slow down! Stick him, stick him. Stay with the stick!"

But Joppy wanted to bomb, not box, and Velazquez wasn't cooperating. By the fourth, Joppy's attack had been neutralized, and Velazquez began to bully back.

Joppy answered the bell for the sixth by landing a hard right, but Velazquez just taunted him. Suddenly, the Dominican knocked Joppy's head back with a combination. In the seventh, Velazquez landed a hook that sent Joppy staggering into the ropes. A three-punch combination followed, and Joppy looked to be in trouble.

Correa remembers it this way: "He's in with a guy we all know can bang, and my instructions were safety-first. Joppy got a little cocky and he got hit, and he came back to the corner and said, 'This guy can hit.' And I said, 'Oh, really? You found that out?'"

The IBF rates Joppy sixth. He's listed 22nd by the WBC, which is reportedly ready to move him into the top 10. If there was a time to answer any questions about talent, heart, and desire to go all the way, it was after that seventh round.

Joppy stormed out for the eighth and immediately hurt Velazquez with a right and hook. From there he was relentless, throwing waves of punches. Somehow, the courageous Velazquez survived, though the fight could have been stopped at any time. But Joppy, who boxed out the final two rounds to win a unanimous decision, had made his statement.

The team is now ready, with sights set on WBA middleweight titlist Jorge Castro and IBF champion Bernard Hopkins.

"I want to fight about two or three more tough fights," Joppy said. "But talking about fighting Bernard Hopkins, I feel like I could beat him right now."

Said Brown, "If given the opportunity, he'll be champion of the world. You can take that to the bank."

Funny, but he could've been talking about Sugar Ray Leonard. ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to THE RING, *is based in Washington, D.C.*

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FISKE ON FIGHTS

by Jack Fiske

It was a given that following the tragic ring happenings in London and Las Vegas over the past few months, there would be yet another crusade to banish boxing. In the wake of the abolitionists' hues and cries came a less frenzied call for mandatory use of protective headgear. It is nothing new, and whether or not headgear will prevent brain damage is something that has never been medically established. On the surface the idea seems to make sense: Padding in the vital areas will lessen the effect of blows to the head. Simple, eh?

But will it? The pro and con arguments rage on, and unless there is a comprehensive study, which would have to be financed by the boxing establishment—a proposal anathema to the powers that be—we'll never know for sure. Meanwhile, if an experiment is begun, fans will stay away from the arenas where their cash and presence are needed.

As attendance figures suggest, the fight fan in the main gets his/her jollies from a clean knockout. Perhaps some fans even demand blood. Mandatory headgear would presumably reduce the likelihood of knockouts (while not necessarily guaranteeing fewer brain injuries), and greatly reduce the bleeding, swelling, and wounds that follow headbutts or cuts above, below, and around the eyes. I believe less injury is good. But is it good for boxing?

Oscar De La Hoya is well-protected during a sparring session

For many years I covered the National Hockey League. I loved the sport. The players did not wear helmets until a league rule made the equipment mandatory for all players entering the league. (Established players had the option to wear helmets or go without.) Frankly, with the players' faces less identifiable, I lost some of my ardor for the game. On the other hand, the mandatory helmet rule apparently didn't reduce the appeal of the sport for the generations that followed.

The use of headgear will, of course, lessen the identification of fighters. Their faces will be partially covered to protect their eyes, foreheads cheekbones, and ears. I don't know if that's all bad. I'm in favor of safety, but how many others would prefer to see and smell the blood? Amateur boxing, which requires headgear, is prudent. It also suffers from dwindling attendance. Whether you agree with the mandatory use of headgear or not, the fact remains that amateur boxing is boring. Pro boxing will not tolerate such protective measures.

For years we've heard that headgear gives a fighter a false sense of security. *Hit me, I'm protected*, he thinks. Yes, but for how long? Headgear absorbs considerable sweat and water and weighs heavily on the head and brain. Moreover, amateurs are forever adjusting their helmets, which invariably slip over their eyes.

If headgear helps eliminate injuries and saves lives, are these arguments picayune? Of course they are. But that's what the pro-boxing interests will use to counter any attempts to curb knockouts and blood and guts in the squared ring. Even the experts are divided. Dr. Jack Battalia, chairman of the medical committee of the IBF, agrees that headgear will protect the eyebrows and ears, but told *The Washington Post*, "It really makes for more danger. It weighs several pounds, and you're making the head heavier. If you hit the heavier head, the head is not going to start moving as fast. But the brain that is moving inside the skull is going to move as fast … The brain bounces. Headgear just doesn't protect those guys at all [from brain injuries]."

Dr. Robert Voy, deputy chairman of the medical commission for Olympic boxing and a member of the board of directors of USA Boxing, agrees that headgear has been beneficial in regard to cuts, facial fractures, and eye injuries. "But," he added, "statistically, at least as it has been measured in the Olympics, World Championships, World Cup, and other competition, we have not found a decrease in the number of knockouts, which may indicate that headgear does not prevent concussions or subdural hematoma. My reaction is that the jury is still out."

The most vocal expert for the abolition of boxing, Dr. George Lundberg, editor of the journal of the American Medical Association, said, "It is not just the deaths, but the chronic brain damage, that is so frequent. The main point is that blows to the head damage the brain." Lundberg calls the use of headgear "equivalent to having referees wear tuxedos."

"It dresses up the sport, but it doesn't do any good," Lundberg said. "Headgear has no benefit except [for] the conscience of the people who think they're doing good." ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of May 1995, and the WBC and IBF ratings were compiled as of June 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	–
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	6	8
Joe Hipp (USA)	3	4	3
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	3	9
Evander Holyfield (USA)	5	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	6	5	7
Frank Bruno (GB)	7	–	–
Francois Botha (SA)	8	2	1
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	9	11	12
Peter McNeeley (USA)	10	7	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	13	8	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	12	9	–
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	21	10	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	–	–	2
Buster Mathis (USA)	20	–	4
Corrie Sanders (SA)	16	–	5
Andrew Golota (POL)	17	12	6
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Robert Daniels (USA)	1	5	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	4	8
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	3	6	5
Arthur Williams (USA)	4	–	–
Mark Randazzo (USA)	5	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	6	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	7	10	7
Torsten May (GER)	8	–	4
David Izeqwire (NIG)	9	–	10
Terry Dunstan (GB)	10	–	–
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	–	1	2
Adolpho Washington (USA)	11	2	3
Carl Thompson (GB)	–	3	12
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	–	7	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	13	8	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	14	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1
Egerton Marcus (USA)	–	–	6
John Andrade (USA)	29	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	1	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	2	3	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	3	–	3
Ginger Tshabalala (SA)	4	–	11
Merqui Sosa (DR)	5	–	–
Jose Gomez (BRA)	6	2	–
James Toney (USA)	7	–	4
Noel Magee (GB)	8	12	–
Phillipe Michael (FRA)	9	10	10
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	10	–	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	4	1
Lou Del Valle (USA)	24	5	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	16	6	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	7	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	8	7
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	2
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	5
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	6
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	8
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	12	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	7	4
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	3
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	3	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	4	–	12
Michael Nunn (USA)	5	–	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	6	–	5
Luciano Torres (BRA)	7	3	–
Cecil McKenzie (USA)	8	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	9	–	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	10	8	10
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	27	2	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	4	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	5	–
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	–	6	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	12	9	–
Bryant Brannon (USA)	21	10	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	16	11	1
Eric Lucas (CAN)	–	–	6
Jean-Claude M'blye (FRA)	20	–	7
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	23	–	8
Merqui Sosa (USA)	–	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	7	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	2	5	2
Joe Lipsey (USA)	3	8	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	4	–	–
Neville Brown (GB)	5	–	7
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	6	–	–
Silvio Branco (ITA)	7	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	8	6	4
Reggie Johnson (USA)	9	1	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	10	–	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
William Joppy (USA)	20	3	3
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	4	12
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	24	9	6
Zdravo Kostic (SERB)	14	10	–
Howard Davis (USA)	–	–	8
Juan Viloria (COL)	–	–	9
Robert Allen (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luis Santana (DR)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	2	6	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	3	3	11
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	8	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	5	7
Winky Wright (USA)	6	4	12
Paul Vaden (USA)	7	–	2
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	8	–	–
Buddy McGirt (USA)	9	7	5
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	10	9	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	1	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	2	1
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	10	–
Keith Holmes (USA)	24	–	3
Raul Marquez (USA)	17	–	4
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	11	6
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	8
Hernan Mena (COL)	–	–	9
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	30	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	2	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	4	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	2
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	6	3
Valery Kayumba (FRA)	5	9	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	6	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	7	7	9
Derrell Coley (USA)	8	3	10
Lonnie Smith (USA)	9	–	–
Vincent Phillips (USA)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	27	8	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	10	5
David Gonzalez (USA)	12	12	7
James Hughes (USA)	–	–	11

…ELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
…Randall (USA)	–	C	–
…Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
…Kamau (USA)	1	3	2
…gman (SA)	2	6	3
…Pineda (COL)	3	4	1
…Coggi (ARG)	4	2	–
…Rahilou (FRA)	5	1	–
…Pendleton (USA)	6	9	4
…Chaves (ARG)	7	–	–
…ale (GB)	8	11	12
…Parisi (ITA)	9	–	–
…Sondergaard (DEN)	10	–	–
…Ladd (USA)	–	5	5
…Scott (USA)	–	7	–
…Thobela (SA)	–	8	–
…Barbosa (VEN)	–	10	–
…Rodriguez (USA)	18	–	6
…veira (USA)	19	–	7
…Padilla (COL)	–	–	8
…Tyson (USA)	15	–	9
…Mayweather (USA)	–	–	10

…HTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
…Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
…De La Hoya (USA)	–	–	C
…Julio (COL)	1	1	1
…Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	8
…Johnson (USA)	3	3	5
…Marchena (MEX)	4	–	–
…Mosley (USA)	5	–	–
…Silva (ARG)	6	–	–
…Holiday (SA)	7	4	2
…Johnston (USA)	8	–	6
…Robinson (USA)	9	12	4
…Ruelas (USA)	10	–	7
…Taroreh (INDO)	20	2	–
…Lawal (DEN)	19	5	–
…Camache (USA)	25	6	–
…Sakamoto (JAP)	18	7	–
…Rivera (PR)	–	8	–
…Canoy (PHIL)	–	9	–
…Schwer (GB)	21	10	9
…Lark (USA)	–	–	3
…Molina (COL)	–	–	10

…LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
…Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
…Hopson (USA)	–	4	C
…Nelson (GHA)	1	3	5
…Alexandrov (RUS)	2	5	12
…Gatti (USA)	3	–	1
…James Leija (USA)	4	6	7
…Johnson (TRIN)	5	12	–
…Yoma (FRA)	6	8	–
…Soo Choi (KOR)	7	2	–
…Warren (USA)	8	–	–
…Hernandez (USA)	9	–	–
…Liberatore (USA)	10	–	–
…Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	1	–
…Havard (GB)	15	7	–
…Nicola (BRA)	–	9	–
…Lifa (FRA)	13	10	6
…Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	2
…Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
…Siritsin (RUS)	12	–	4
…Grove (USA)	–	–	8
…Patterson (USA)	–	–	9
…Lorcy (FRA)	17	–	10

…THERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
…Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
…Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
…Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
…Soto (MEX)	1	11	–
…Kelley (USA)	2	5	4
…Beleno (COL)	3	3	1
…Badillo (PR)	4	2	7
…Patterson (USA)	5	–	–
…Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	6
…Labdouni (FRA)	7	10	–
…Rios (ARG)	8	–	–
…Medina (MEX)	9	–	10
…Harada (JAP)	10	–	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	11	1	3
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	4	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	15	6	9
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	7	–
Nobutoshi Hiranaka (JAP)	–	8	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	17	9	–
Tony Green (USA)	12	–	2
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Francisco Segura (USA)	21	12	8

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Jesus Salud (USA)	1	7	8
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	3	5	3
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	5	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	6	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	7	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	8	2	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	9	6	–
Junior Jones (USA)	10	8	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	23	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	–	3	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	4	4
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	9	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	17	–	2
Anton Gilmore (SA)	19	–	5
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	21	–	6
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	7
Frank Toledo (USA)	18	–	9
Maui Diaz (USA)	12	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	7	2
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	6	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	1	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	–	7
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	5	–	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	6	–	–
John Armour (GB)	7	11	3
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	8	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	9	12	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	10	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Jorge Julio (COL)	12	3	9
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	5	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	20	8	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	9	6
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	24	10	–
Sergio Reyes (USA)	18	–	1
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	4
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	5
Sam Stewart (USA)	–	–	8
Paul Ayala (USA)	25	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	5	6
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	3	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	3	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	4	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	5	–	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	7	–	1
David Griman (VEN)	8	2	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	9	6	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	10	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	1	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	16	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Veeraphol Soharpom (THAI)	–	8	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	14	9	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	13	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	2
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	3
Jose Diaz (USA)	25	–	4
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	5
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	21	–	7
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	8
Domingo Sosa (DR)	19	–	9
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	3
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	3	–	12
Hugo Soto (ARG)	4	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	5	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	6	10	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	7	4	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	9	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	24	3	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	6	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	–	7	10
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	8	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	9	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	17	–	1
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	2
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	–	4
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	11	–	5
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	6
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	7
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	8
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	5	2
Michael Carbajal (USA)	2	2	4
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	7	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	1	1
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	5	–	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	–	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	7	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	8	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	6	8
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	10	3	3
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	11	4	–
Puma Kanehira (MEX)	–	8	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	9	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	10	–
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	5
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	23	–	6
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	7
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	24	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	2	–	11
Kermin Guardia (COL)	3	2	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	4	9	5
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	5	6	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	6	7	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	7	12	3
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	8	10	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	10	1	2
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	11	8	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	13	–	4
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	6
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	7
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	21	–	8
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	9
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

KEN NORTON TOSSES HAT IN THE RING

From THE RING, May 1970

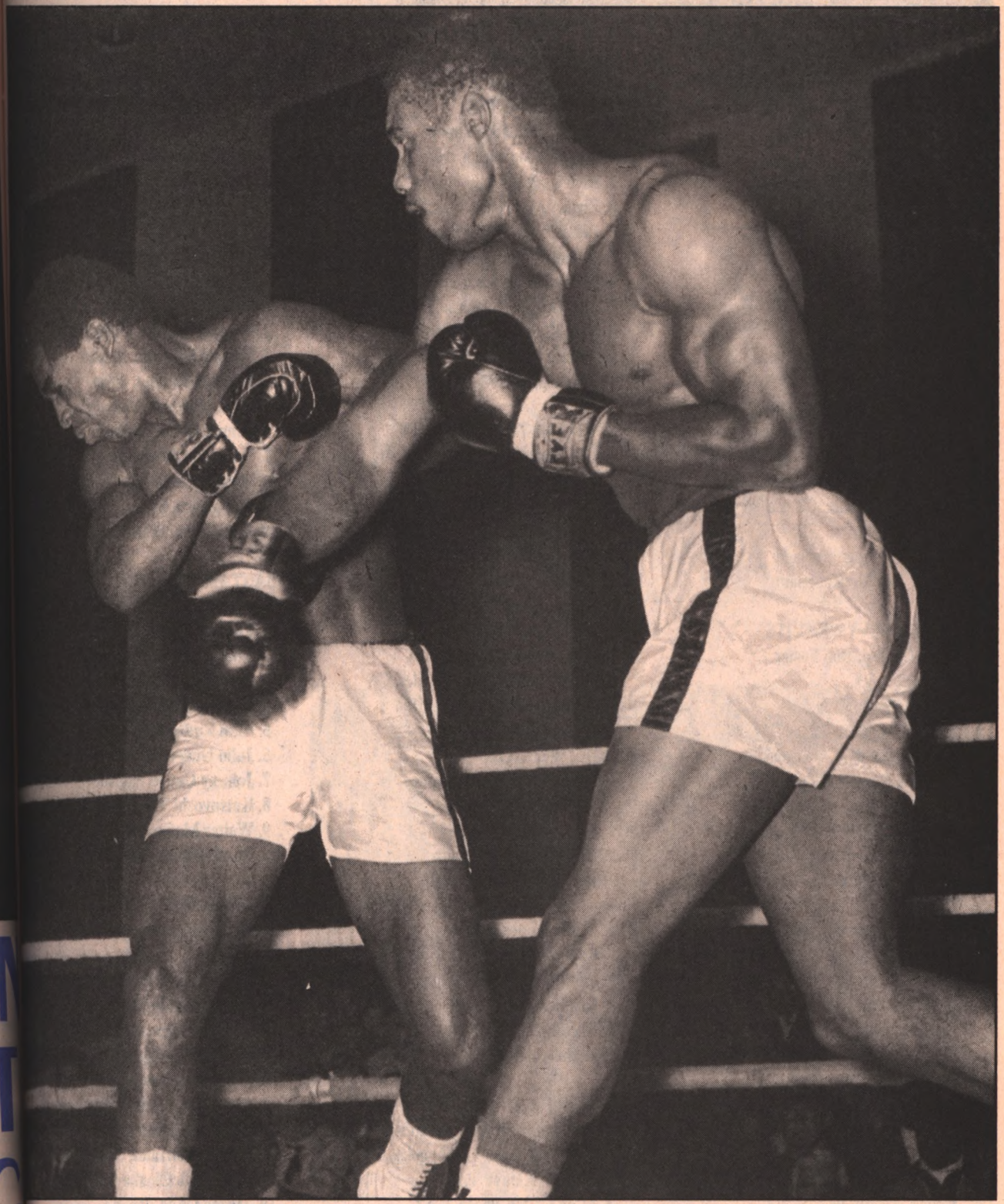
By **John Greensmith**

It's hard to fault an undefeated record, and yet San Diego heavyweight Ken Norton isn't happy at this point of his young professional career.

"Don't misunderstand me," Norton states. "I have no complaints with my manager [Art Rivkin] or my trainer [Eddie Futch], but I would like to be further along than I am in my career at this stage, and I just hope during 1970 some of the fights I've been wanting will come my way."

A member of the fight-for-pay organization since late-1967, Norton has won 11 of his 12 victories by knockout, and indications point to bigger and better things for the muscular former Marine.

Asked for a reaction to Norton's somewhat confusing statement to THE RING's interviewer, Futch said in Los Angeles, "I understand what

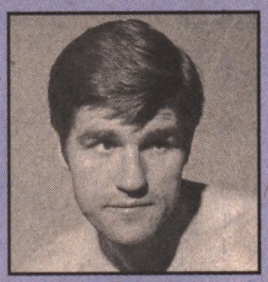


ur-round fights for this tough Marine! In his pro debut, Norton stopped former Golden Gloves champion Grady Brazell in the ninth round. The bout place in Norton's hometown of San Diego. Norton has won all but one of his fights by knockout and is ready for stiffer competition.

Ken is saying. He's 25 years old and has worked real hard as a professional and is undefeated. But he has yet to have a big payday and isn't ranked. He's just anxious to get to the top, and from what I've seen in recent fights, he's ready to make his move against the best."

Talking further about his fighter's future, the veteran handler pointed out that it has been difficult in recent months to obtain fights for Norton: "Look at it this way. Boxers like Tony Doyle, Scrap Iron Johnson, George Foreman, Jack O'Halloran, or Manuel Ramos are fighters

THE RING RATINGS, May, 1970



Nino Benvenuti

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Frazier, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Leotis Martin**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY
3. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
4. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
5. **Sonny Liston**, Las Vegas, NV
6. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **George Chuvalo**, Canada
8. **Al Jones**, Perrine, FL
9. **Henry Cooper**, England
10. **Jose Ibar Urtain**, Spain

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.
1. **Dick Tiger**, Biafra
2. **Jimmy Dupree**, Jersey City, NJ
3. **Mark Tessman**, Houston, TX
4. **Ray Anderson**, Akron, OH
5. **Hal Carroll**, Syracuse, NJ
6. **Vicente Rondon**, Venezuela
7. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
8. **Piero Del Papa**, Italy
9. **Yvan Prebeg**, Yugoslavia
10. **Gomeo Brennan**, Bahamas

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nino Benvenuti, Italy
1. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
2. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami Beach, FL
3. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
4. **Freddie Little**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Juan Carlos Duran**, Italy
6. **Tom Bogs**, Denmark
7. **Don Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
8. **Fraser Scott**, Seattle, WA
9. **Doyle Baird**, Akron, OH
10. **Carlos Monzon**, Argentina

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jose Napoles, Mexico
1. **Manuel Gonzalez**, Odessa, TX
2. **Rodrigo Valdes**, Colombia
3. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
4. **Percy Pugh**, New Orleans, LA
5. **Johann Orsolics**, Austria
6. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
7. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY
8. **Raul Rodriguez**, Mexico
9. **Donato Paduano**, Canada
10. **Raul Soriano**, Mexico

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nicolino Locche, Argentina
1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
3. **Jimmy Robertson**, San Francisco, CA
4. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
5. **Turk Kamaci**, Austria
6. **Enrique Jana**, Argentina
7. **Ely Yares**, Philippines
8. **Eddie Garcia**, Downey, CA
9. **Larry Harding**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Mando Ramos, Long Beach, CA
1. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
2. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
3. **Jaguar Kakizawa**, Japan
4. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
5. **Sugar Ramos**, Mexico
6. **Raul Montoya**, Mexico
7. **Miguel Velazquez**, Spain
8. **Ken Buchanan**, Scotland
9. **Hector Pace**, Argentina
10. **Arturo Lomeli**, Mexico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Hiroshi Kobayashi, Japan
1. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Antonio Amaya**, Panama
3. **Alton Colter**, Phoenix, AZ
4. **Silvero Ortiz**, Mexico
5. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines
6. **Jose Acosta**, Venezuela
7. **Ray Echavarria**, San Jose, CA
8. **Frankie Crawford**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Alfredo Marcano**, Venezuela
10. **Jose Smecca**, Argentina

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Johnny Famechon, Australia
1. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
2. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
3. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
4. **Kuniaki Shibata**, Japan
5. **Cruz Marcano**, Venezuela
6. **Jimmy Revie**, England
7. **Fernando Sotelo**, Mexico
8. **Hiroshi Shoji**, Japan
9. **Jose Legra**, Spain
10. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ruben Olivares, Mexico
1. **Takao Sakurai**, Japan
2. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
3. **Raul Cruz**, Mexico
4. **Kazuyoshi Kanazawa**, Japan
5. **Alan Rudkin**, England
6. **Julio Guerrero**, Mexico
7. **Johnny Clark**, England
8. **Katsuyoshi Takayama**, Japan
9. **Walter McGowan**, Scotland
10. **Mario Manrique**, Mexico

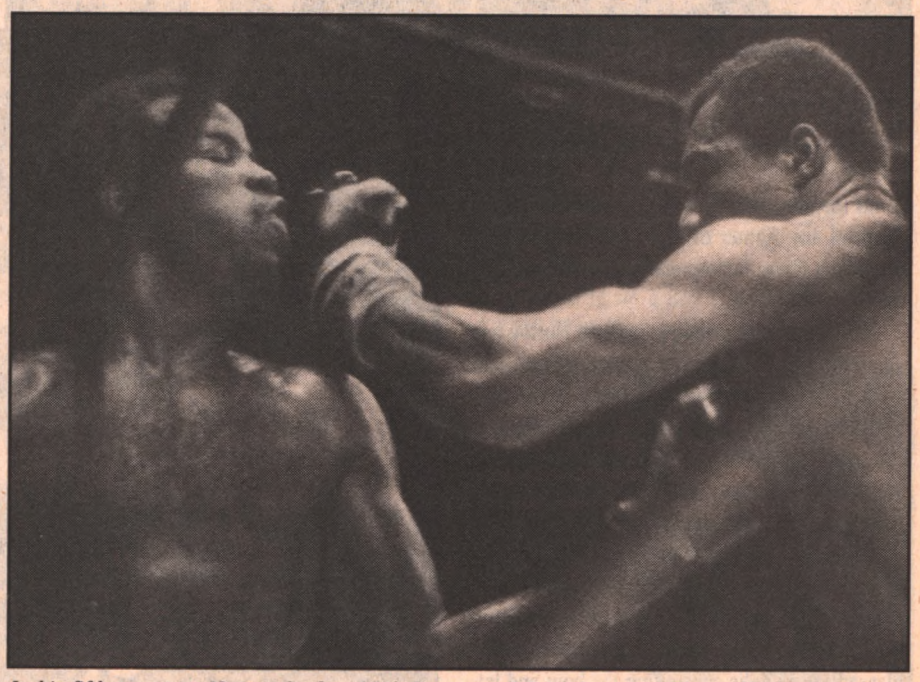
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alacran Efren Torres, Mexico
1. **Berkrerk Chartvanchai**, Thailand
2. **Fermin Gomez**, Mexico
3. **Bernabe Villacampo**, Philippines
4. **Susumu Hanagata**, Japan
5. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
6. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand
7. **Lorenzo Gutierrez**, Mexico
8. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
9. **Johnny McCluskey**, Scotland
10. **Masao Ohba**, Japan

...iner Eddie Futch holds a pair of aces in champion Joe Frazier and Norton. The fighters are friends and have vowed they'll never fight each other.

...ould like to have Norton meet at this stage ...s career, but they have little to gain by beat... Ken—and a lot to lose if he wins. So their ...agers come up with excuses when we ...uch them for a fight or price themselves ...f the market."

...Futch continued: "We may take Norton back ...to get bouts for exposure in that area and to ...n opponents, since it is becoming increas... ...tough to get matches for him on the Coast. ...promoters at both the Olympic Auditorium ...e Beverly Hilton [Don Chargin and Laurie ...] are interested in having Norton fight on ...Los Angeles cards, so hopefully we will be ...e early in 1970. Should we get three or four ...wins, then I think the promoters and the ...can pressure some of the reluctant fighters ...me out of their shells and face Ken."

...Norton's unbeaten record isn't enough to ...most boxers think twice before climbing ...he ring with him, a look at his physical ...tes is the clincher. Standing 6'3", he has ...unds of solid muscle spread in an awe-



In his fifth pro start, Norton displayed his dangerous left hook against Wayne Kindred, whom he halted in six rounds. The bout was a toe-to-toe slugfest from the opening bell.

Looks can be deceiving. Blubbery Jimmy Gilmore's haymakers were dangerous (above), and body-beautiful Norton needed seven rounds to mount an attack that would stop him (right).

some fashion over his slim, trim frame. It is doubtful any fighter of any division in boxing can match Norton's impressive physical credentials.

But a muscular physique isn't all Norton has going for him. He has a fine trainer in Futch and a patient manager in Rivkin. They have combined talents to bring him along at a safe and sure pace, and have never been willing to push their young talent too fast or too far. Norton has progressed well under their care.

"Ken is looking good in his workouts," Futch says. "He's punching sharper than I have ever seen him and has learned to pace himself in the ring. In recent fights I have been very pleased to see he is controlling the bout and letting his opponent know who is in charge."

It was not always so with Norton. Early in his career he would go after his opponent with vengeance and often find himself wide-open and tiring if he failed to knock his man out early. He had little or no left jab, and seemed unable to control the fight over an extended period of time. But his excellent condition and strength carried him past his first six or seven opponents with but a few anxious moments.

Late in 1967, at San Diego's Civic Concourse, Norton fought his first professional fight and knocked out that year's Golden Gloves champion, Grady Brazell. A six-round decision over veteran Sammy Wyatt followed, with Norton getting a boxing lesson in the late rounds from the only fighter to go the distance against the former Marine.

The only boxer to put Norton on the deck has been Harold Dutra, and their fight in Sacramento was a crowd-pleaser. Late in the second round, Dutra caught big Ken with a solid right, and for the first time in his career Norton found himself on the canvas. But he didn't stay there long and came roaring back to deck Dutra in the round and put him away for good in the third stanza.

A seventh-round knockout over a blubbery but dangerous Jimmy Gilmore followed in San Diego, and then came one of the most vicious fights ever seen in the coastal city, as Norton met Wayne Kindred at Circle Arts Theater.

Five frantic rounds went by with little in the way of finesse being exhibited by either fighter but the action was enough to have the fans in

nstant uproar, as the two heavyweights forgot all that their managers plored and elected to slug it out in street-fighting fashion. In the sixth und, Norton's strength and condition paid off as he sent Kindred rough the ropes with a right and left to the jaw to record his fourth nockout.

Other fights and more wins by the kayo method followed. Cornell olan, Kindred (for the second time), Joe Hemphill, Pedro Sanchez, nd veteran Bill McMurray fell before the strong shots of an improving orton.

With Joe Frazier in the audience and 1,600 fans on hand at Bill ller's Coliseum in San Diego, Norton met a good prospect from Las gas in Gary Bates. It proved to be a frustrating night. Round after und went by with a strong and game Bates proving to be an elusive nd tough target. Just when it looked as though Bates was about to go ay from the pressing attack tossed at him by Norton, the Vegas card ader would slip away and double over in a hard-to-get-through defen- e shell. At times Norton looked confused and amateurish as he failed enetrate the Bates wall. But in the eighth round, he sank a wicked into the stomach of his unwilling opponent and countered with a t that almost tore Bates' head off. It was all over.

Knockout number 12 came in San Diego's Coliseum, with Norton pping previously unbeaten Julius Garcia of Denver in three rounds. rcia was a willing foe who traded leather in the first two rounds. But y in the third, Norton landed a series of brutal combinations, as well a solid right to Garcia's temple. After the bout, Garcia commented, an, can he hit! It was weird. I could think fairly clear, but I just dn't control my legs when I tried to get up. That's the first time I e ever been knocked down."

Winning fights by knockout is not new to Norton. As an amateur he 24 of 26 bouts, with 19 showing a kayo mark. When in the U.S. rine Corps for more than four years, he won three Corps titles and Pan-American Games Trials crown.

Stationed at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, Norton won that state's den Gloves and AAU heavyweight titles in 1966, and followed in by advancing to the finals of the National AAU tourney in San before losing to Forest Ward in a close, rugged battle.

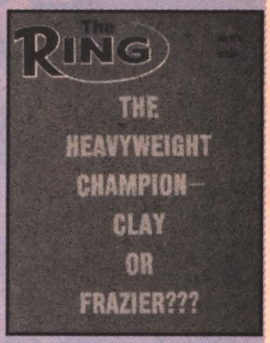
Norton's contract is held by four San Diego businessmen, with soft- company executive Rivkin acting as a spokesman. "Ken is paid a ly salary, and this allows him to concentrate on his boxing career sively," Rivkin said. "He runs about five miles in the morning day of the week and then reports to Eddie [Futch] at a Los es gym later in the day for workouts. Ken is always in top condi- and never has been a problem to us in any way. We are all very of him and feel sure he is going to be a champion."

ere would seem to be little in the way of Norton making it all the the ladder in professional boxing. He has the size, speed, condi- and strength needed, and more importantly, possesses the Marine desire to win. Combined with the knowledge of a skilled trainer patient manager, Norton would seem at this juncture to have ing going for him, and boxing fans would do well to keep his in mind when contemplating the often cloudy heavyweight pic-

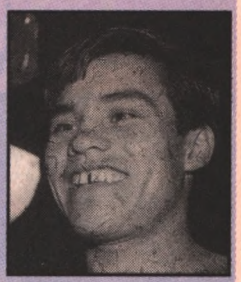
rton sums it all up when he says, "I think the time has come for make my move. I know what I can do in the ring and hope that 1970, the boxing world will permit me to start climbing up that everybody talks about. I think I have a pretty good foot up it at nt, and would like to go all the way to the top!" ■

THE RING, May 1970

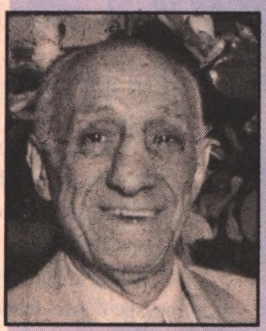
The Cover: No photos, no other headlines, just Clay and Frazier. THE RING, which still refers to Muhammad Ali as Cassius Clay, now recognizes Frazier as the world heavyweight champion. "Smokin' Joe" gained that status with a convincing kayo of Jimmy Ellis at Madison Square Garden.



All The Way, Jose: World welterweight champion Jose Napoles, who was selected as THE RING's Fighter of the Year for 1969, starts the new year in impressive fashion, stopping top-rated Ernie "Indian Red" Lopez in the 15th round at the Inglewood Forum. Lopez was outclassed from the start. It was the Cuban's fourth successful defense.



The Best Bantie: Ted Carroll reviews the history of the world bantamweight title and asks whether Ruben Olivares is the best 118-pounder of all-time. The gap-toothed Mexican champion was sensational in his first start in 1970, crushing British Empire champion Alan Rudkin in two rounds.



Death Of A Legend: Former featherweight champion Abe Attell died in a nursing home near New Paltz, New York. He was 85. The native San Franciscan, a controversial figure both in and out of the ring, reigned from 1903 to 1904, and then again from 1906 to 1910. Even after his fighting days, Attell made news; he was long-rumored to be a key figure in baseball's 1919 Black Sox scandal.

Fighter Of The Month: Heavyweight champion Joe Frazier is this month's winner. The Philadelphia left hooker scored a sensational knockout of defending WBA champion Jimmy Ellis in their long-awaited showdown. Among the runners-up: Leotis Martin, who became the top-rated heavyweight by stopping Sonny Liston.

LOOKING AHEAD

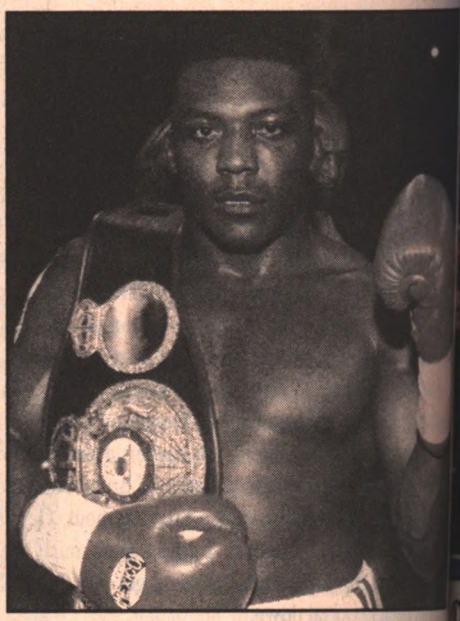
By Steve Farhood

THE TYSON WATCH

Record pay-per-view prices are likely to scare off a lot of fans from ordering Mike Tyson's August 19 comeback fight vs. Peter McNeeley. For $40-50 or more, viewers deserve an attractive undercard. This is what Don King is offering: WBA heavyweight champion Bruce Seldon vs. Joe Hipp, the third (and hopefully last) title bout between WBC super welterweight champion Luis Santana and Terry Norris, and IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad in a mandatory defense against Larry Barnes.

Seldon-Hipp will be of particular interest because there's a strong chance Tyson's second comeback bout will be against the winner in November.

King is also planning a card at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas for September 16, with WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez defending against David Kamau and WBA junior welterweight champion Frankie Randall defending against an opponent to be named. But before you assume Chavez-Randall III will follow, consider this: Chavez has reportedly told King he wants a rematch with Pernell Whitaker.



Seldon: Defending on the Tyson undercard

"At the Moorer and Lewis doubleheader in Sacramento [in May]," Shelly Finkel, Whitaker's manager, told THE RING, "I met with King and he said, 'Give me a call and let's see if we can make the fight.' So I called him and he never returned the call."

Also on the PPV schedule: IBF lightweight champion Oscar De La Hoya vs. WBC junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez on September 9.

Photo by Bill Apter

Acero-Sanchez: Ready to battle Junior Jones

LISTEN UP

Look for the IBF to strip **George Foreman** for refusing to defend against Axel Schulz. As we went to press, it was anticipated Big George was planning to opt for a rematch with **Michael Moorer** and then retire. Schulz and **Frans Botha** will presumably vie for the vacant IBF title ... WBC super bantamweight champion **Hector Acero-Sanchez**, who was lucky to get a draw vs. **Daniel Zaragoza** in June, will next face the Mexican in a rematch. If he's victorious, he'll meet fellow New Yorker and former bantamweight champion **Junior Jones**, probably in Atlantic City.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Mike Tyson	Peter McNeeley	25-1	McNeeley's inflated record an embarrassment to boxing
Julio Cesar Chavez	David Kamau	5-2	Chavez should still have enough left to get by
Bruce Seldon	Joe Hipp	9-5	Interesting, competitive match
Steve Collins	Chris Eubank	3-2	Let's hope this time it's televised in the USA

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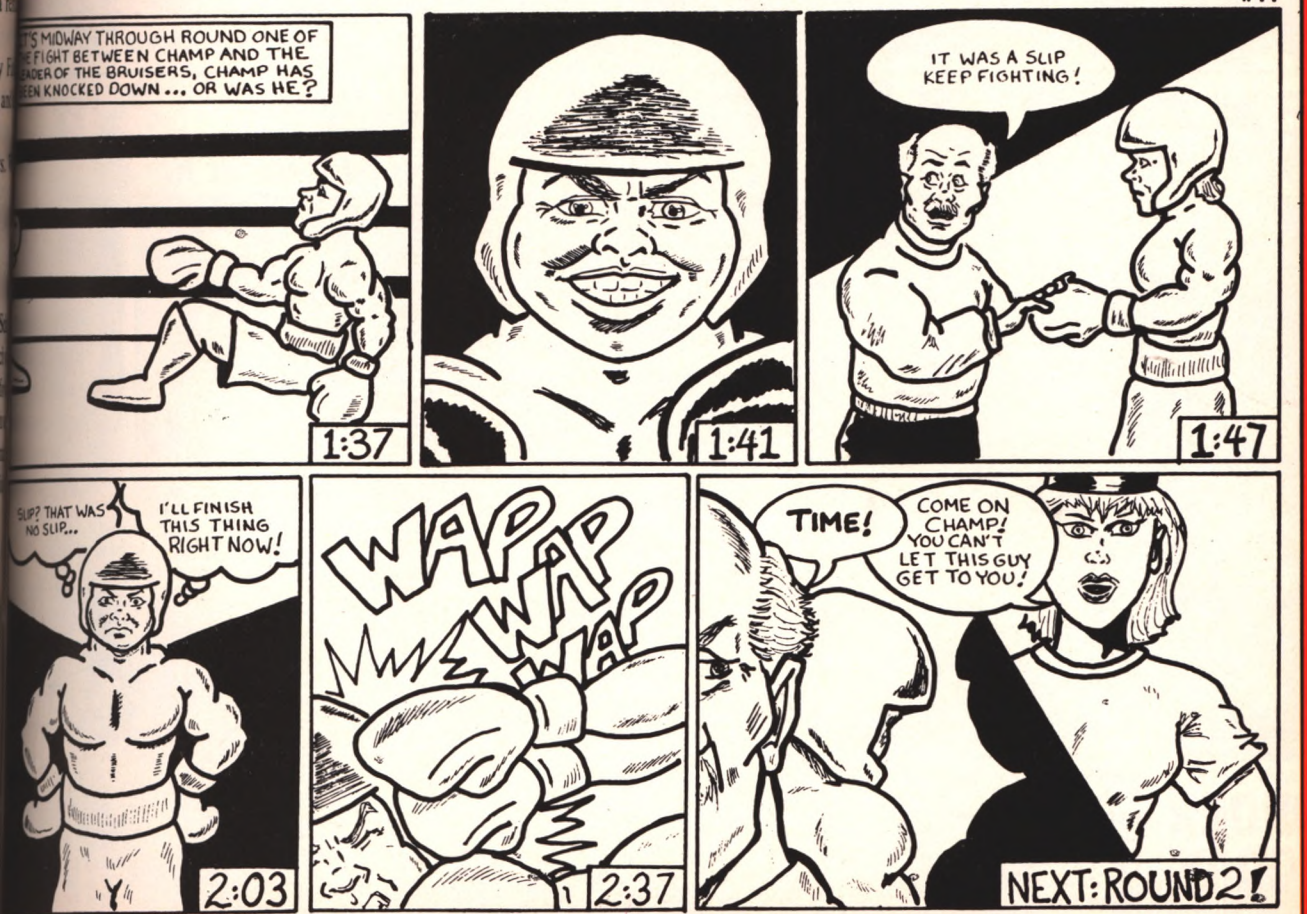

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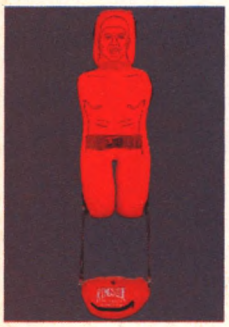

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